CPA to give 75% relief to tenants. PAGE 3
CCC files complaint against IPI. PAGE 4

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Guam reports 10th death

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Less than 24 hours after recording two fatalities, Guam had the unfortunate distinction of having their 10th death due to COVID-19 yesterday. The latest fatality is a 96-year-old woman who was brought to Guam Memorial Hospital yesterday morning and was pronounced dead on arrival.

During a live press conference, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero announced the death of the 96-year-old woman. She added that with GMH's protocol that everyone enter-

See GUAM on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 27, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	984	140	1,124
Recovered	427	8	435
Active	540	140	680
Deaths	9	1	10
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			35,502

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	54	0	54
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,920*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

*With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Rota Bird Sanctuary is being eyed as part of a planned Rota National Historic Park.

Esper visit to tiny Palau highlights US-China competition

AP

In this June 20, 2009 file photo, the Palau Capital building is seen in Melekeok, Palau. Defense Secretary Mark Esper plans to fly nearly halfway around the world this week to tiny Palau, which no Pentagon chief has ever visited.

WASHINGTON (AP)— No nation is too small or too distant from Washington, it seems, to be excluded from the Trump administration's campaign to counter China's efforts to supplant America as the dominant Pacific power.

Evidence of this is Defense Secretary Mark Esper's decision to fly nearly halfway around the world partly so he can spend several hours in Palau, a Pacific archipelago of barely 20,000 people southeast of the Philippines.

There is no suggestion of a

See ESPER on Page 4

» Kilili says NPS findings post-COVID-19 is economic opportunity for Marianas

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The National Park Service issued yesterday its preliminary findings that indicate Rota is a special place with significant cultural and natural resources.

NPS said based on preliminary results of its special resource study, Chamorro archeological sites, World War II Japanese defensive sites, and limestone forests appear to be nationally significant and

See ROTA on Page 4

PSS is barred from disclosing info on sexual abuse allegations

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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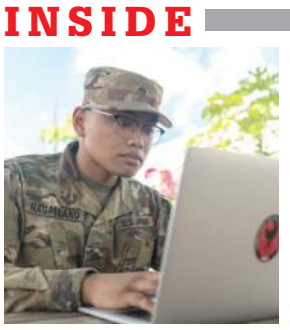
REPORTER

The Public School System is legally barred from disclosing information on sexual abuse allegations committed by employees due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

PSS legal counsel Tiberius D. Mocanu, in a letter to a private citizen requesting such information under the CNMI Open Government Act, stated

See PSS on Page 4

INSIDE

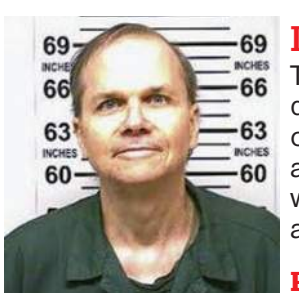


LOCAL
NMC reported that its enrollment for the Fall 2020 semester is higher than last year.

PAGE 7

ASIA
China is protesting the alleged incursion of a U.S. Air Force U-2 spy plane into a no-fly zone.

PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE
The man who gunned down John Lennon outside his Manhattan apartment in 1980 was denied parole for an 11th time.

PAGE 19

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Local

Funding available to improve Beach Road

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Motorists seemingly running a slalom along Beach Road could finally be a thing of the past as the long stretch of the main thoroughfare from American Memorial Park to Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio will finally be improved and smoothened.

Blanco

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) disclosed Wednesday that funding for the Beach Road improvement project would come from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program

He also said some $700,000 from same funding source will be used for a mitigation project to address flooding along Oleai Street next to San Jose Street.

Blanco said they're discussing with the Department of Public Works and NMHC about the potential millions of dollars in funding from the CDBG-DRR for the two projects.

"So that's good news," said the lawmaker, adding that there are just details that need to be worked out between the Economic Development Administration and NMHC.

He said he believes EDA will approve the funding for the two projects.

"So now, NMHC and DPW need to work with the environmental assessment," Blanco said.

The lawmaker said if there won't be any environmental impacts that would affect the neighboring areas or any wildlife, then they can go ahead and move along with that funding.

NMHC is currently working with DPW to begin the environmental assessment phase of these projects, among others.

He said for Beach Road, it is resurfacing and compacting to make it smoother and would include resurfacing and road markings.

On flood mitigation of Chili Street in Oleai, the work includes elevation to correct street grade paving and improve drainage in and around the San Jose Church.

Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao and fellow Precinct 3 representatives also expressed their full support for the NMHC and DPW for identifying priority projects in the precinct area.

"I am pleased that federal monies have been made available through NMHC's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program to fund the following priority projects," Attao said.

The speaker said he and Reps. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), Marco Peter (R-Saipan), and Blanco have been "working tirelessly to secure funding for these priority projects."

Attao said he appreciates everyone's patience as securing full funding remains a challenge.

"With this federal funding opportunity from EDA, I am pleased we can move forward with our partnership with the NMHC and DPW teams," said Attao.

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CPA to give 75% relief to tenants

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors unanimously agreed to give 75% discount to its tenants at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport that have been critically hit as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CPA waived 100% of the payment leases for a total of three months, April to June, then 50% which ended in July, and now a 75% relief until December because there are no international flights. According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, there are 50 tenants at the CNMI airport, and 37 tenants at its seaport that have, and will still, benefit from the waiver/discount.

Although there is no money coming in for CPA, CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said that they are able to stay afloat with funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act that they received last April 16, which will also allow CPA to "share and spread" the relief with their tenants.

In an interview with King-Hinds, she said that their tenants need to be able to come out of this pandemic with CPA, which is why she thinks that a 75% discount is reasonable on the rental. "I think that the board will also be open to having one-on-one discussions with our tenants as it relates to deferments, if they're unable to meet their obligations," she added.

Even if tenants, at seaport and the airport, aren't able to pay the full amount that they owe, King-Hinds said that it will be a case by case basis. "We're not here to hurt our tenants, we're here to support them, and we're here to get out of the situation together. Our tenants are our lifeline, and we are very open to having these discussions with them," she said.

Even with the four flights a day, the situation at CPA hasn't changed, same goes for their tenants. With no tourist coming in, the car rental operators are not seeing any revenue, and also Saipan Skydiving Adventure has not seen any activity since the pandemic hit.

According to King-Hinds, CPA's revenue comes from their tenants, however, because of the CARES Act, they are able to be "self-sustainable." Meaning that they are able to carry themselves to the next fiscal year, at current austerity levels. This also means that employees are still working a 64-hour biweekly schedule.

Additionally, King-Hinds says that there has been word going around that there might be potential funding under the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, under airport funding. However, if that doesn't happen, King-Hinds says that there will be more discussions on what type of relief will be passed on to their tenants. ***(Justine Nauta)***

Man who threatened to 'kill' governor arrested

Ayuyu

Last Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2020, at about 1:20pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a disturbing the peace incident at the Legislature located on Capitol Hill. Police were dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, officers met with employees of the Legislature who stated that the individual left and headed toward the Governor's Office. While making his way toward the Governor's Office, the individual yelled profanities at others and continually asked where the governor was. The individual continually yelled that he wanted to "fight" the governor and "kill him."

Police managed to restrain the individual before he was able to make it into the office. The individual continued to resist police and refused to calm down. Officers managed to safely secure him in the backseat of the patrol vehicle where they had identified him as Pedro Ayuyu. Ayuyu was arrested for disturbing the peace and was brought to Kanoa Resort for clearance before being transported to the Department of Corrections to be booked and processed.

Later that day, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo issued a Rule 5 warrant for Ayuyu with bail set at $1,000. Ayuyu now awaits arraignment.

In a statement, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said, "The individual was not acting normal, and I have asked to have him evaluated by our doctors for mental health issues. If it is determined that he has mental health issues, we are obligated to take care of him as a community. It is important that we support our friends and neighbors who may have mental health issues and help them in their recovery."

The CNMI Department of Public Safety highly encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime, emergency, or disturbance. ***(PR)***

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35th International Coastal Cleanup 2020 CNMI

Participants will adopt a location (beach, community area, or roadside) and are asked to tally data while collecting debris. Supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and data sheets, can be provided upon request. Trash hauling and disposal will be taken care of by DCRM, with assistance from the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA).

We would like to remind the public to practice proper social distancing and hand hygiene while participating in this year's cleanup event. Although DCRM is unable to provide face masks, we would like to encourage all participants to take precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers.

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For more information, contact the ICC Coordinator: **Colleen Flores** at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp or (670) 664-8300 / 8316

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DUE TO NON-PAYMENT OF $15.5M ANNUAL CASINO LICENSE FEE

CCC files complaint against IPI

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission acting executive director Andrew Yeom has filed a complaint against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC before the CCC over its failure to pay the $15.5 million in annual casino license fee by the deadline last Aug. 12.

Yeom, through counsel assistant attorney general Michael L. Ernest, filed two claims against IPI for alleged violations of Commonwealth Code and CCC regulation, a claim of breach of contract, and a claim for a declaratory order.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for comments from IPI.

Yeom asked the CCC board to declare that IPI committed the violations and did not immediately self-report to the Commission the facts which gave rise to the violations prior to being contacted by the Commission's enforcement staff.

The acting executive director requested CCC to declare that the violations committed by IPI were major violations pursuant to CCC regulations.

Yeom asked CCC to order the suspension of IPI's license to conduct gaming operations on Saipan until such time the annual casino license fee is paid in full.

He asked CCC to order IPI pay $50,000 in fine per violation per day the annual license fee goes unpaid for the major violations.

Ernest stated the complaint that IPI is required by Commonwealth law, the Casino License Agreement, and the regulations promulgated by CCC, to pay an annual license fee.

Ernest said the annual license fee starts at $15 million per year and is subject to adjustment to reflect changes in the consumer price index.

Ernest said per the CLA, the annual license fee is due on Aug. 12 each year.

He said the annual casino license fee for the seventh year was due on Aug. 12, 2020.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

ESPER

From Page 1

direct Chinese military threat to Palau. Instead the island nation is an example of the sometimes obscure battleground on which the United States and China are pursuing a "great power" competition for global influence in an era of a more inward-looking Washington and an increasingly assertive and ambitious China. The power struggle is intensifying on multiple fronts and is seen by some an an emerging "cold war" akin to the mostly non-shooting conflict that played out between the United States and the former Soviet Union until the collapse of Soviet communism in 1991.

In defiance of Beijing, tiny pro-American Palau is one of only 15 states with official diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the self-governing island that China claims as its own territory.

"We are concerned about China continuing to try to flip countries that recognize Taiwan today to establish diplomatic relations with China instead," said Heino Klinck, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for East Asia. "We find that destabilizing, quite frankly." The United States made that very switch itself when it recognized Beijing as the sole legal government of China in 1979, although Washington maintains unofficial relations with Taiwan and sells arms to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act.

PSS

From Page 1

that PSS intends to fully cooperate with the Office Attorney General's investigation on alleged sexual abuse at PSS once it begins.

Additionally, because of the private citizen not being a law enforcement agency or acting under a court order, PSS is not able to provide information that was requested.

Mocanu stated information that was requested, by said private citizen, is personal identifiable information that involves current or past PSS students, which is protected by both federal and state law. "Consequently, because students have a privacy interest in this information, it may only be made available to them or their parents as well as to a law enforcement agency or court," said Mocanu.

Additionally, PSS employees are legally allowed to have the right of privacy under the CNMI Open Government Act and any personal information in their files other than their names, present and past position titles, grades, salaries, and duty stations are considered exempt from the OGA. With that, Mocanu stated that still, PSS is legally unable to provide information that was requested. Mocanu stated that PSS takes the allegations of sexual abuse of its students seriously, and will continue to cooperate with the AG's office in its investigation.

Irene Holl, the private citizen who Mocanu is addressing, recently filed the OGA against PSS because she believes that parents who have children, who are still going to school, need to have access to this information to "ensure our kids are safe," safe from "predators" that are potentially working in schools, who are in the community that may have been identified during their employment in the school system, and who may be working at other schools or in areas where they positioned to put children at risk.

"We know that over the years there have been instances where employees of PSS having been subject to allegations of sexual misconduct, have been transferred to other schools or quietly released from services. Collectively, we've heard of instances of sexual misconduct taking place in our school's over the decades, some of these have come to light more publicly than others," Holl said through a letter to PSS.

Holl added that the practice where employees suspected of sexual misconduct eventually led to legal action, but most were met with "minor administration actions," have been going on for decades. "We know that this practice has been going on for many decades, with serious questions about the appropriateness of the punitive measures or lack of punitive measures taken in these cases by PSS," said Holl.

Additionally, due to the OGA, PSS did not confirm the names, that Holl listed, were involved in sexual misconduct.

GUAM

From Page 1

ing the emergency room gets tested for COVID-19, the 96-year-old woman's test returned positive.

"On an island whose fundamental values are rooted in respect for our elders—poor choices now can place them in the most danger. When we refuse to wear a mask around others; when we assume that our individual health must mean everyone else is strong a and healthy; when we treasure our rights without accepting our responsibilities, we invite danger to the vulnerable, the *man'amko*, the frontline worker, and the nurse," said Leon Guerrero.

Guam has also reported on Wednesday night that they now have over 1,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Additionally, over 700 confirmed cases were reported in August alone, which is nearly 70% of their total confirmed cases since March 2020. Leon Guerrero stated that active cases now exceeds the number of patients released from isolation—something they have not seen for months.

With the overwhelming positive cases, and four deaths in the past two weeks alone, Leon Guerrero extended Guam's Executive Order 2020-09, the Public Health Emergency, to Sept. 20, and a stay-at-home order until Sept. 4 at 12noon. On Wednesday night, Guam reported their highest positive number of cases which was 136. This raises Guam's positive cases up to 1,120.

Leon Guerrero pleaded for everyone to continue to stay at home, with the exceptions of making necessary trips such as getting food and household necessities, going to and from work at critical businesses, getting medical care, caring for dependents, caring for a vulnerable person in another location, caring for pets, or exercise.

"Make no mistake, you are our best tool against this virus. If we each do our part, if we each protect one another with social distancing, hygiene, and mask-wearing we will prevail," said Leon Guerrero.

"We live in a free society. We have rights but we also have responsibilities. Every time we willfully violate a public health order, every time we refuse to wear a mask, every time we downplay the danger of COVID-19 we dishonor those who sacrifice for us each day.

"More and more I've realized that adversity introduces us to our true selves. It tests our core values. It makes us prove what we truly believe in. At its best, Guam's spirit is about 'we' not 'me.' We survive—we thrive even—because we know deep down that 'we are all in together' always works better than 'you are on your own.'"

"We can't forget that now. We need to remember it now more than ever. Please, stay home to stay safe and save lives," said Leon Guerrero.

ROTA

From Page 1

suitable for inclusion in the national park system.

With this development, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said (Ind-MP) yesterday that NPS findings that a Rota National Historic Park is "both suitable and feasible" is a post-COVID-19 economic opportunity for the Marianas.

"This is good news at a time when the economic future of the Marianas is uncertain," Sablan said.

He, however, stated that as the NPS' draft report indicates, a national park is only feasible with the partnership of the CNMI government, the Rota municipal government, and, especially, public agreement "that this is the right step to take."

"Now, we need to hear from the people of Rota and the people of the Marianas: What do the people want to do? That is next question to answer," Sablan said.

NPS' special resource study of Rota was authorized by Congress in 2014, after four years of work by Sablan. In 2015, Sablan secured funding, prompting NPS to begin the study.

NPS said yesterday that its preliminary analysis also indicates that these sites would be conditionally feasible for inclusion in the NPS, requiring a partnership based approach for management because of land ownership restrictions on Rota.

Based on these preliminary findings, NPS staff developed three alternative concepts for the preservation and public enjoyment of these sites including: Continuation of current management; Rota National Historical Park Concept; and Rota National Monument or Preserve Concept.

Sablan said NPS' study proposes three alternative courses of action for a public discussion that will formally begin in September 2020 with virtual meetings and opportunities for written comments.

Sablan said the first alternative is to continue the current management by the Commonwealth and Rota municipal government agencies.

He said the second and third alternatives are for the CNMI and the Rota municipal governments to enter into a management agreement with NPS for a Chamorro National Historical Park (about 526 hectares), or for a Chamorro, limestone forest, and WWII sites National Historic Park (about 1,780 hectares).

Sablan said all lands would remain in Commonwealth ownership consistent with Article 12.

Sablan said currently, there are only 57 National Historic Parks nationwide and that these include Abraham Lincoln's birthplace, Valley Forge, and the Appomattox Court House, where the Civil War ended.

After the public makes its views known, NPS will send a final report to the Secretary of the Interior, who will in turn transmit a recommendation to Congress. Only Congress can actually create a national park.

Sablan said a Rota National Park is an idea that started on Rota, when former senator Diego Songao suggested it to him, when he (Sablan) was first elected in 2009 as delegate.

Sablan said he immediately pushed a bill authorizing a resource study through the U.S. House of Representatives.

The U.S. Senate was less interested on the idea, but Sablan persisted as in his second term in 2012, he again introduced and passed a bill in the House, and then again in his third term in 2013.

Both bills received a hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Sablan was able to piggyback his legislation on the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015, P.L. 113-291.

Sablan got the study funded in the Fiscal Year 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 114-113.

At the House hearing in 2010, then-Rota representative Teresita A. Santos during her testimony showed that Natural Resources Committee slides of Mochon Latte Stone Village, Chugai Pictorial Cave, and the Taga Latte Stone Quarry.

After Santos' presentation, Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-California) called Rota "a jewel."

Sablan said overall, residents who attended public hearings and/or provided comments viewed a unit of the national park system on Rota as beneficial and supported NPS management and programming of the nationally significant sites.

Sablan said the study also noted public concerns about limits on traditional hunting, collecting, and agricultural practices.

"We know what happens when the government takes action—like approving the Imperial Pacific casino—that do not have the support of the people or disrespect our culture," he said.

The delegate encouraged everyone to take a look at the NPS report and provide input.

He said Rota has the kind of unique and beautiful sites that people from around the world would come to see—a permanent source of economic activity in the future that would be based on the Chamorro heritage that stretches back 3,000 years.

Teachers want return to face-to-face learning

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Over the past several months, teachers went from teaching face-to-face to now teaching remotely, and with the upcoming school year this hasn't changed, schools are now moving onto the online platform. Two private school teachers, who agreed to talk under anonymity, voiced out their concerns on why schools can't open but other establishments can.

Many seems to agree with their opinions as an online petition under change.org (https://www.change.org/p/covid-19-task-force-of-the-cnmi-let-kids-learn-let-adults-work-lift-the-restrictions) calling for a return to face-to-face learning is gaining steam.

Jane (not her real name) said that the reason for the petition was to give the community a voice to show how remote learning can not only affect the parents, but also how it can affect the students, who might not have to resources to participate online, as well as, how it doesn't show "consistency where other businesses are given freedom to operate."

Jane said that the school she teaches at was given strict guidelines to reopen and have inspections on top of that. "We were following strict guidelines where businesses are not being inspected nor have a set of guidelines to reopen. As an educator it is beyond frustrating we have been working our buts off since last March to keep children learning," said Jane. She added that with the assumption that they will be back on school campus, gearing up for the upcoming school year, only to be told that they will be going back to remotely learning has been frustrating.

"We've spent masses of money to alter our campuses and buy safety equipment from a developmental point of view our students are being deprived, especially the younger students who need face-to-face gain language and motor skills," said Jane. She added that even child development studies back how the lack of face-to-face will put them at a disadvantage, and that parents do not have the ability to facilitate learning while working.

"After days out of school from Super Typhoon Yutu and even Typhoon Soudelor we are creating a generation of children that are not educated to standards, children also need their peers to learn and to develop social and emotional skills," Jane added. With a computer screen, it does not create a bond with others or make connections that are important to their mental health.

"All of our hard work the first week is being destroyed. As a parent, we need to be able to work and give back to our economy, to be able to pay bills. We are only have parenting and half working as we try to juggle both," said Jane.

Another private school teacher, Ben (not his real name), says that government entities never got back to their request to inspect schools back in May, but only two weeks ago before they were going to open, that's when they got inspected. "After successful inspections and given the green light by the Governor's Office and COVID-19 Task Force, the Child Care Licensing Program allowed kids to return to private school, but refused students under the age of 3, which makes up a substantial percent of the population. There was no real reasoning or scientific logic behind this decision," said Ben.

Ben added that with the latest executive order, private schools continue to be postponed until a tentative opening on Sept. 8. He says that while schools are encouraged to go online, there are still many schools who have younger populations which can make online education "nearly impossible," without parents staying home and working individually with their children.

"Private schools rely on collecting tuition as its sole source of income but these orders make running these schools financially more difficult. Bars, churches, businesses, gyms, and students with special needs are still permitted to meet (with less regulation) but private schools are not," said Ben.

As of Aug. 27, a total of 181 community members have signed the petition, they need at least 200 to achieve their goal.

In the petition, CNMI residents plead to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to lift restrictions on remote learning.

"COVID-19 is worldwide and cannot be completely eliminated. We inevitably will see cases in the CNMI in the coming months. Currently, we do not have widespread infection. The processes in place over the past weeks have worked. Please trust us as members of the community to stay the course. We will not reach zero, but we can keep our curve flat," said the petition.

Court orders IPI to pay its dues in attorneys fees

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has been ordered to pay nearly $94,000 in attorneys fees in the lawsuit filed by seven construction workers.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered IPI to pay $93,834.25 in attorneys' fees for the seven defendants—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan.

One of the plaintiffs' attorneys, Aaron Halegua, filed the motion for attorneys' fees as part of the sanctions against IPI for discovery order violations.

Aside from Halegua, attorney Bruce Berline, Times Wang, and paralegal Jacob Kessler also represent the plaintiffs.

Manglona said IPI's repeated failures to abide by this court's discovery orders have resulted in the sanction.

Manglona added that IPI has changed counsel multiple times over the course of the case, considerably complicating the discovery process.

To date, she said, the current counsel of IPI is still reconstructing discovery sought by the plaintiffs in Sept. 2019.

The plaintiffs worked for the previous IPI contractor and subcontractor, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co. and Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI).

The plaintiffs allege forced labor, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractors.

In their first amended complaint, the plaintiffs also alleged violations of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act and the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, as well as claims under CNMI law for the physical injuries the plaintiffs said they suffered at the IPI construction project.

The plaintiffs are seeking $3.86 million in compensatory damages and $7.72 million in punitive damages.

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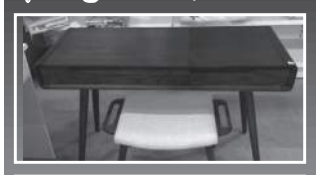

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Hyatt Regency Saipan achieves facility accreditation

MARK RABAGO
Hyatt Regency Saipan is a 321-room hotel located in Garapan, the island's shopping and entertainment district.

Hyatt Regency Saipan announced that it has achieved Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) STAR accreditation, the gold standard for prepared facilities. Under the guidance of GBAC, a Division of ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association, Hyatt Regency Saipan has implemented the most stringent protocols for cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention in its facilities.

As the cleaning industry's only outbreak prevention, response and recovery accreditation, GBAC STAR helps organizations establish protocols and procedures, offers expert-led training and assesses a facility's readiness for biorisk situations. The program verifies that Hyatt Regency Saipan implements best practices to prepare for, respond to and recover from outbreaks and pandemics.

"GBAC STAR accreditation empowers facility owners and managers to assure workers, customers and key stakeholders that they have proven systems in place to maintain clean and healthy environments," said GBAC executive director Patricia Olinger.

"By taking this important step to pursue GBAC STAR, Hyatt Regency Saipan has received third-party validation that it follows strict protocols for biorisk situations, thereby demonstrating its preparedness and commitment to operating safely."

To achieve GBAC STAR accreditation Hyatt Regency Saipan was required to demonstrate compliance with the program's 20 core elements, which range from standard operating procedures and risk assessment strategies to personal protective equipment and emergency preparedness and response measures. Learn more about GBAC STAR accreditation at www.gbac.org.

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa said," Our top priority for welcoming guests and colleagues back to Hyatt properties is doing it safely, with your wellbeing in mind."

Guided by our purpose of care and experience delivering world-class hospitality for more than 60 years, Hyatt's Global Care & Cleanliness Commitment builds on our existing rigorous safety and cleanliness protocols and includes:

■ GBAC STAR™ cleanliness and training accreditation process through the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) at all Hyatt hotels.

■ Trained Hygiene & Wellbeing Leader or team at all locations, responsible for their hotel adhering to new operational protocols and training.

■ Cross-functional panel of trusted medical and industry advisors—including experts from Cleveland Clinic—to help us fine-tune safety protocols and consider various aspects of the entire hotel experience. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPLOSIVE DETECTION SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT PROJECT,** SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-16.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Explosive Detection Systems Replacement Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-006-16" and submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of the two existing Explosive Detections System (EDS) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport with a new temporary baggage facility for the temporary conveyors/EDS machines including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (540) calendar days**.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ($1,500.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the departure terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US $250.00) for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD) including the bid schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

Each bidder shall file at the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, a written notice of intention to bid using the Intent to Bid Form on LP 2 of the specifications, or similar, at least seven **(7) calendar days** prior to the date designated for the opening of bid proposals.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director at the CPA Administration Office, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 30, 2020

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Early Intervention Program

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its ICC meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, via teleconference, contact 664-4841 for meeting link. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
Roll Call
Adoption of Agenda

II. Election of Officers

III. Director Updates
- CNMI Determination
- Preliminary APR date
- Program Updates

IV. Open Discussion

/s/ Angie Mister
Vice-Chairwoman

/s/ Robin L. Palacios
Director, Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part C Funds.

NMC has rise in enrollment

NMC

Northern Marianas College's enrollment has increased this Fall semester from last year. The college has also seen a higher number of students enroll in the SROTC program.

Despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Northern Marianas College today reported that its enrollment for the Fall 2020 semester is higher than last year.

The college said that it has enrolled about 1,300 students this semester.

"Our enrollment this Fall is even higher than one year ago in Fall 2019," said interim president Frankie Eliptico.

NMC's enrollment was at 1,246 students in the Fall of 2019. Eliptico also mentioned that NMC has continued to post increases in enrollment in the past few years.

"Our strong enrollment for this semester demonstrates that more and more students in the CNMI are looking to NMC for their professional growth and development," added Eliptico.

Classes for NMC's Fall semester have been migrated to an online platform for the most part to maximize safety of students and employees during the pandemic.

Eliptico said 92% of the 247 classes this semester are taught virtually or online. As a result of the directive from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, NMC shifted the remaining 8% of classes with face to face instruction to an online or virtual format through September 6, 2020.

"Our staff and faculty have also been working very hard to prepare our campus and to ensure our programs and services continue to meet student needs and expectations even while online," said Eliptico. "Our recruitment team has also done a tremendous job in reaching out to our community."

Eliptico acknowledged the hard working employees—faculty and staff—for their commitment and dedication to NMC students. ***(PR)***

UNDER CONSTRUCTION KRIZEL TUAZON

Cones and caution tape can be seen along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Pathway due to the renovation of the sidewalk and tables that were destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

The Division of Coastal Resources Management would like to thank our local volunteers for creating beautiful artwork for ten newly acquired trash receptacles.

In hopes to create a Plastic-Free Marianas, DCRM has placed ten trash receptacles at San Isidro Beach Park, Sugar Dock Beach (2), Civic Center (2), the Tank Memorial along Beach Road, 13 Fishermen Pavilion, Micro Beach, PauPau Beach, and the Bird Island Lookout.

When improperly disposed, trash can make its way into our oceans and become marine debris. Marine debris can harm marine wildlife, damage marine ecosystems, cause economic loss, degrade the qualify of life in coastal communities, and threaten human health and safety. The CNMI experiences first-hand the harmful effects of marine debris. We must all come together as a community to fight the global battle against ocean pollution.

To find out more about marine debris or ongoing projects and programs at DCRM, visit our website at **www.dcrm.gov.mp**.

Lalaine Santomin, San Isidro Beach Park

Valerie Hofschneider, Sugar Dock Beach

Joshua Santos, Sugar Dock Beach

Analee Villagomez, Civic Center

2020 DCRM Summer Interns, Civic Center

Maverick Irang, Tank Memorial

Carey Demapan, 13 Fishermen Pavilion

Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance, Micro Beach

Erin Park & Julie Quan, Pau Pau Beach

Lalaine Santomin, Bird Island Lookout

WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP
Division of Coastal Resources Management
Tel.: (670) 664-8300 | Fax: (670) 664-8315

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Shooting deaths in Kenosha seemed tragically inevitable

The tragedy unfolding in Kenosha, Wisconsin, worsened Tuesday night in ways that are at once shocking but also seemingly inevitable. Two people were shot dead and another wounded as protesters and self-styled militiamen faced off during a third night of street demonstrations after police on Sunday shot and gravely wounded yet another apparently unarmed Black man, Jacob Blake.

Details of the latest violence remained sketchy Wednesday, but videos and photographs show verbal confrontations between protesters and heavily armed volunteers who said they were trying to protect a gas station in the area racked by vandalism, theft and arson the previous night. "They're a militia," Kenosha County Sheriff David Beth told reporters. "They're like a vigilante group."

In one of the videos, a young white man carrying a military-style rifle can be seen running down a street pursued by a small group of people as one person yells, "He shot someone!" One man knocks the gunman to the ground, and in the scuffle the gunman opens fire, appearing to hit two people at close range. He then gets back onto his feet and walks calmly down the road toward emergency vehicles. Police later reported the arrest of Kyle Rittenhouse, 17, in Lake County, Illinois, in connection with the deaths.

So why does this escalation of violence seem inevitable? Because of the guns.

Protests have roiled the nation for three months now following the death of George Floyd in the custody of Minneapolis police and the shooting death of Breonna Taylor during a police raid in Louisville, Kentucky. Those protests have at times turned destructive and violent, which is bad enough. But there's been a lethal element too — the slayings in Kenosha add to at least a dozen others connected with protests across more than 100 cities this summer, an emotional outpouring of frustration over the nation's inability to counter anti-Black racism.

Self-styled militias have also shown up at sites of peaceful protests in organized and unwelcome displays of firepower, ostensibly to protect life and property but in reality just ratcheting up tension with their overt attempts at intimidation. The militias aren't the cause of all or even most of the violence, of course, but their presence is an unnecessary infusion of yet more volatility.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, a 31-year-old man, part of a group intending to stop demonstrators from harming a statue of Spanish conquistador Juan de Onate, was arrested in June after allegedly shooting and wounding one of the protesters. The same month, police in California charged an Air Force sergeant affiliated with the "boogaloo" movement—right-wing provocateurs intent on fomenting civil war—in the shooting deaths of a federal security guard in Oakland and a Santa Cruz sheriff's deputy.

See SHOOTING on Next Page

Why is the CDC fighting today's virus with yesterday's technology?

By JOEL WHITE and DOUG BADGER
The Heritage Foundation

Joel White is the executive director of the Health Innovation Alliance. Doug Badger is a senior fellow at the Galen Institute and a visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation.

When the levees broke under Hurricane Katrina, the Army Corps of Engineers was roasted for spending billions and still failing to protect Americans. So where's the outrage over the latest epic governmental fail—this one by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention?

The federal agency with primary responsibility for handling infectious diseases, the CDC uses an antiquated system to collect information essential to fighting the coronavirus. Medical workers literally phone or fax in their data. And when they do, it's not the data we need.

The CDC employs thousands of experts and has been around for 76 years. Yet its COVID-19 data pales in comparison to what's available on websites that didn't even exist a few months ago. One of these, The Atlantic's COVID Tracking Project, was launched in March — the same month Congress gave the CDC $1 billion to collect the same data.

Multiple congresses and administrations have tried to drag the CDC into the 21st century, to no avail. Since 2006, the CDC has ignored four separate laws requiring it to build a modern, efficient system for collecting information to combat disease.

The Government Accountability Office has twice reprimanded the CDC for its impudence. A decade ago, it warned prophetically that "the nation will lack an effective tool for ensuring that public health situational awareness capabilities have been established." Yet the CDC still has not acted.

When Congress required the centers to establish a modernized system in 2006, it gave them a 2008 deadline. Yet 12 years on, the CDC still has not stitched together more than 100 reporting systems into a cohesive dashboard. This is blowing our country's budget, and those of many states.

Compounding the problem is the fact that CDC reporting is usually a one-way street: health care workers report to public health officials, but get little information back. The result: clinical knowledge, patient data and best practices for treating COVID-19 aren't being shared in real time for hospitals and policymakers to use. That is costing lives, as well as trillions of dollars.

To succeed where the CDC has failed, the Department of Health and Human Services must do four things.

First, it must identify, prioritize, and standardize the key data needed to ensure a robust, informed response to COVID-19, opioid abuse and other public health threats. For example, it is essential to collect timely information on hospitalizations and mortality, the age and comorbidities of patients and total net active cases. It is scandalous that this data is not uniformly defined and reported.

To increase understanding of which populations are most susceptible to the contagion, the data must identify confirmed cases by race, ethnicity, disability, and income levels. it must also be geographically specific, so policymakers can identify hotspots and implement targeted mitigation strategies.

Second, data must be collected within normal clinical workflows. Front-line doctors don't have time to file separate reports on top of the claims data they submit to insurers, yet that's precisely what they have to do today. Almost all hospitals — and 75% of physician offices — now use electronic systems (created with a $40 billion investment from federal taxpayers) to file insurance claims. Yet they are forced to reenter data by hand when they report to public health agencies. HHS should have this data collected au-

See CDC on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Belarus crisis is a problem for Moscow. Here's how Putin might respond

By DANIEL TREISMAN
Los Angeles Times

Daniel Treisman is a professor of political science at UCLA. He is the editor of "The New Autocracy: Information, Politics, and Policy in Putin's Russia."

Russian President Vladimir Putin is no fan of revolutions. As massive demonstrations and strikes roil the cities of neighboring Belarus, he cannot like what he sees. The question on everyone's mind is what he will do about it.

Putin has little affection for Belarus' widely loathed president, Alexander Lukashenko, who claimed victory in the Aug. 9 presidential election, which observers say was fraudulent. Over the years, the Belarusian strongman has alternately cadged aid from Moscow and played the anti-Russian card to rally support at home. Just a few weeks ago, he arrested a team of Russian mercenaries transiting through Minsk and threatened to deliver them to Ukraine, where some were accused of terrorist activities.

But, as a groundswell of protest over electoral fraud threatens to overthrow Lukashenko's regime, the stakes for Moscow are high.

With Ukraine—except for Crimea and its Donbas region—now firmly in the Western orbit, the "loss" of another Slavic republic from Russia's sway would be humiliating to Putin and many around him. Although Belarus lacks the cultural resonance of Crimea, its history links it closely with Russia.

A region within the tsarist empire, Belarus was one of the original Soviet republics and the site of bloody battles in World War II. For many Russians, Belarus is — as Putin's spokesman Dmitri Peskov put it on Aug. 19 — a "brother land" inhabited by a "brother people."

The crisis also catches Putin at a difficult moment. In the eastern Russian city of Khabarovsk, large crowds have been demonstrating for weeks against the Kremlin's arrest of a locally popular governor. Putin's handling of the coronavirus, shunting responsibility onto regional governors, smacks of weak leadership. In April, his approval rating slipped to just 59%, its lowest level since he took office.

Given all this, some see a danger that Putin might intervene forcibly in the Belarusian crisis in the hope of rekindling his domestic support with a repeat of the Crimean episode.

That is possible, but unlikely. Any action to rescue Lukashenko or advance integration of the two states would not be popular in Russia. Lukashenko's defiant brutality in recent days has shocked many. And, unlike in the case of Crimea, most Russians do not wish to see Belarus annexed. According to a recent poll, only 23% of Russians favor incorporating Belarus or joining the two countries in a new state under a common government.

Any Russian military intervention would also arouse a furious response from the Belarusian public, which so far remains well-disposed toward its larger neighbor. Polls suggest that three-quarters of Belarusians favor friendly, visa-free relations with Russia. But only 4% would like to see their country incorporated as a Russian region.

At this point, Putin looks undecided. So far, Russian state media and pro-Kremlin politicians in the Duma have been expressing a range of views. That suggests they have not yet received clear guidance from above.

If Moscow were to intervene, it has more effective levers than overt force. In the age of hybrid war, it can shape events through the networks of influence Russian security services have built up over the years. A Russian government plane used to carry the head of the FSB, the federal security service, was spotted flying to Minsk from Moscow and back during the night of Aug. 18.

Another lever is the media. After employees started to walk out at Belarus' state TV company to protest censorship, two Russian planes flew in on Aug. 18 carrying teams of TV workers to replace them, according to the company's former director. Then there is economic pressure. Belarus is highly dependent on cheap Russian oil and gas, which it re-exports at a markup, earning huge profits. Whether Lukashenko or someone else, the country's leader will need continuing Russian cooperation.

What could provoke Putin into more overt action would be signs of Western interference. Demands for closer relations with the European Union or NATO might also spark a harsh reaction.

In phone calls with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President Emmanuel Macron of France on Aug. 18, Putin warned that any outside intervention would be "unacceptable." Spokesman Peskov complained last week that "attempts at such direct intervention are taking place."

To reassure Moscow, the newly formed Coordinating Council of the Belarus opposition issued a statement on Aug. 19 pledging not to change the country's "constitutional order and foreign policy course." It called on Lukashenko to halt violence, release political prisoners and hold new elections under a new electoral commission.

For their part, EU leaders said Aug. 19 that they would not recognize the results of the Aug. 9 election. But echoing Putin's words, they also insisted that there should be no outside interference. "Belarus must find its own path for itself," Chancellor Merkel said.

That path will require skillful balancing. Lukashenko has survived for 26 years by playing Russia against Europe while concentrating power at home. But the civic maturity shown by Belarusian protesters suggests society has outgrown its dictator. Lukashenko's day may be over — if not now, then soon. But his successors will need both talent and toughness to build a thriving democracy while holding Russia at bay.

CDC

From Page 8

tomatically from a doctor's electronic health record or by adopting Medicare Part D's approach of gleaning data directly from insurance claims.

Third, information must be shared in real-time with medical professionals. Reporting should be a two-way street that informs public health decision-making and clinical care. This requires national, interoperable networks that can be accessed by labs, hospitals, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and public health officials. The end goal is not to create a federal vault of new data, but to constantly update those on the frontlines with useful information.

The CDC lacks the internal expertise to do this. HHS should immediately issue a contract to build the system. In the interim, HHS could direct the CDC to start hosting calls for front-line clinicians to learn from each other as they find new ways to treat the virus.

Finally, the network must contain strong privacy protections. Data transmitted to the federal government should be de-identified. Those who misuse or improperly disclose personal health information must be subject to stiff civil and criminal penalties.

The CDC's long-standing failure to modernize its data systems is intolerable. Things must change, and quickly, to improve our understanding of the pandemic and prepare us for future crises.

SHOOTING

From Page 8

Meanwhile, the restrictions imposed by state and local governments to slow the spread of COVID-19 fueled their own strain of frustration and tension, prompting a separate set of anti-government demonstrations. In several places, protests have included the open display of firearms by people (nearly all men), most notoriously in the halls of the Michigan State Capitol.

This is democracy in action: Peaceful protests against institutional racism and the deaths of unarmed Black people at the hands of police. Peaceful protests against statues erected to venerate the nation's white supremacist roots. Peaceful protests against public health orders. And counterprotests against all those other protests. Voices raised together to demand change, to defend the status quo, to complain about government actions or to make whatever other point they might want in the free exercise of their First Amendment rights.

But then, violence.

There is, of course, plenty of blame to go around. Protesters shouldn't resort to vandalism—at least 34 fires have been set in Kenosha since Blake was shot on Sunday — and opposing sides in a public debate shouldn't start pushing, shoving and swinging signs at each other.

But they do. And the introduction of firearms into such scenes makes it almost inevitable that a gun will eventually get used.

The details will, of course, frame our understanding of what happened in Kenosha. But what is already clear is that self-styled militia, or civilian patrols, or whatever they want to call themselves, have no business assigning themselves the armed defenders of the public peace.

As we've seen over and over again, as a society we have yet to properly balance the role of the trained police in maintaining public safety in this country. Adding armed vigilantes to the mix just elevates tensions and increases the likelihood that violence will spin off in ever wider and consuming circles.

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A COVID cabin fever believer

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

"If I am killed, I can die but once; but to live in constant dread of it, is to die over and over again."

—Abraham Lincoln

I'm afraid of dying, I thought I wasn't for a while
felt I could easily go on until my last dying breath
just grin and bear it with an all knowing smile
after reading Ernest Becker's The Denial of Death.

COVID-19 is now here, a worldwide pandemic crisis
an invisible viral enemy feared as never before
no banquets or buffets with Bacchus or Dionysus
now a box of charity food comes to your locked door.

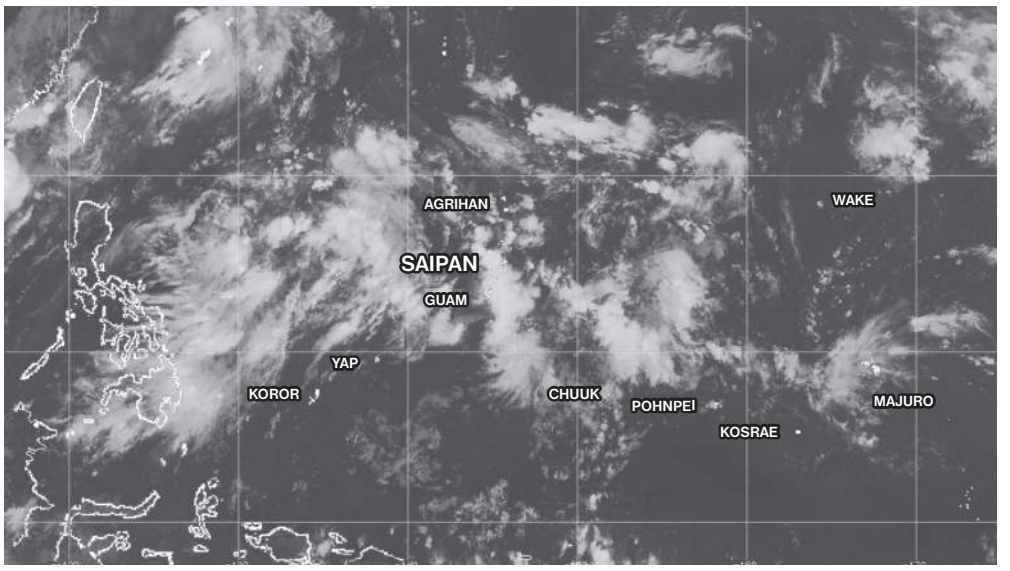
German poet/author Thomas Mann wrote in his play
"Man is Man that's what counts goddamn!" and
"I can't move forward, and I can't move back."
Covid 19 seems to give social distancing little slack.
Then there are fools who won't wear a protective mask
that might save a family member's life. Not a hard task.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Isolated afternoon thunderstorms for Guam saturday.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.
87º / 77º	87º / 77º	87º / 76º	86º / 76º	87º / 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:40 PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak surface trough moving through the Marianas is interacting with upper-level divergence to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the region. Brief heavy showers are possible with thunderstorms.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:18 AM	2:45 PM
Saturday	-	2:13 AM	3:40 PM
Sunday	-	3:10 AM	4:32 PM
Monday	-	4:05 AM	5:19 PM
Tuesday	-	4:59 AM	6:03 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 50°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	75° / 55°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
London	Sunny	96° / 75°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	76° / 62°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Busan	Showers	84° / 73°
Rome	Sunny	97° / 72°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 68°
San Francisco	Sunny	71° / 55°
Seoul	Showers	77° / 63°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	78° / 65°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:19 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.85
10:04 AM	LOW TIDE	0.03
5:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82
10:45 PM	LOW TIDE	1.34

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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'It's time to make difference; we're ready'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix said their candidates are all eager to restore integrity, accountability, transparency, and respect to the CNMI government.

The chairwoman said it's pretty obvious that those things are definitely what makes good government, the people's government.

"A lot of people are just… they are tired of seeing a lot of negative publicity whether it be Republican or Democrat. I think we can all agree that everybody is suffering and it is just time to make difference. So we're ready," Hix said.

Edith Deleon Guerrero, who ran as an independent in the last election for a Senate position but was unsuccessful, said she is excited running this time as a Democrat.

Deleon Guerrero said she's always with the passion and the heart to help the people and make it better for the Marianas.

"So that's the reason why I [want to] seek office again. I'm truly, truly passionate to make our lives better much here for the entire CNMI," she said.

She described the party as a "fantastic team," that she believes is the right team to be with for the Commonwealth.

"I truly believe that it is about time that we get back to the two-party system in the Marianas," Deleon Guerrero said.

She said it did not take much time for her to decide whether to join a party or not considering all of the people that are running under the banner.

"It is the right people to join. So absolutely, it's the right choice, the right time and it's about time that we really truly bring back the Commonwealth to our people," Deleon Guerrero said.

Rep. Tina Sablan said she joined the Democratic Party because she believes in the values of the party.

"I think it is time, the right time to rebuild this party and grow it and establish a real vibrant two-party system in the Marianas," Sablan said.

She said so she so excited and so proud of the Democratic Party's slate.

Sablan said she is running again to continue the work that they've started with their team in the House minority.

"We think that check and balance in our government is so important. And we really have the mandate of the people to clean up our government, restore trust in our government," she said.

Sablan underscored the need to "build an economy that really cares for everybody."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who supports the local Democratic Party, said he has always been supportive of good candidates.

"For me I've seen good candidates here and I am here to extend my support. Obviously as you know I caucus with the Democrats in the U.S. Congress. I just agree with the Democrats' philosophy, the Democratic Party's agenda," delegate Sablan said.

The delegate noted that there are also good people in the other camps whether Republican or independent.

Rep. Richard Lizama, who won as an independent in the last election, said he decided to seek re-election as a Democrat, because he wants to see a two-party system.

Lizama said the Democratic Party has a better vision.

"As they said people first and that's what I'm running for," he said.

UOG alumni begin doctoral programs this fall

As the academic year begins, several alumni from the University of Guam are among students going back to school, this time in pursuit of doctorates. Following completion of their degree programs, which range from two to five years, many have plans to return home to Guam to serve the community and produce research within their subject areas.

"Our Triton alumni are exceptionally passionate and motivated. And we're proud to say that they're also prepared," UOG President Thomas W. Krise said. "The well-rounded experience and mentorship students receive in our master's and undergraduate programs have made them highly competitive in some top-tier schools and highly selective doctoral programs."

Among UOG alumni beginning doctoral programs this fall are:

■ Ian Aflague (2020 B.A. in Psychology) is beginning his juris doctorate at the University of California Berkeley School of Law. He is interested in practicing environmental law and technology law as well as serving communities that cannot afford non-criminal legal services.

■ Krystal Aldaca (2020 B.S. in Biology, Bio-Medical Track) is beginning her doctorate in dental surgery at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry at the University of Southern California with plans to practice in Guam.

■ Eduardo Biala Jr. (2017 B.S. in Biology) is beginning a post-baccalaureate program in medicine at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii prior to entering the school's Doctor of Medicine program next year. He plans to practice in Guam, potentially in gastroenterology, in a hospital setting.

■ Brandon Datuin (2020 B.S. in Chemistry) is beginning his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities with an interest in working in an advisory role in the private sector.

■ Grace Donaldson (2017 B.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts and Science, 2019 Master of Public Administration) is beginning her doctorate in international relations at Ritsumeikan University in Japan with an interest in continuing her research on Micronesia-U.S.-China relations.

■ Chloé Dydasco (2013 B.A. in Secondary Education, 2015 M.Ed. in Secondary Education) is beginning her doctorate in educational psychology at Washington State University with plans to return to Guam to conduct research and to continue educating future island leaders.

■ Megan Gimmen (2020 B.S. in Biology and Chemistry) is beginning a post-baccalaureate pipeline program at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland for students wanting to pursue doctorates in medicine. She plans to eventually return to Guam to contribute in health care and health research.

■ Jonathan Guerrero (2012 M.S. in Clinical Psychology) is beginning his doctorate in clinical-community psychology at the University of Alaska Anchorage with an interest in returning to Guam and helping address social issues through community- and action-based interventions.

■ Leiana Naholowa'a (2018 M.A. in English) is beginning her doctorate in English at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa with an interest in returning to Guam to teach and continue her research of CHamoru literature, history, and culture.

■ Arielle Lowe (2016 B.A. in English and CHamoru Studies, 2019 M.A. in English) is beginning her doctorate in English focusing on Asia Pacific cultural studies at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa. She is interested in returning to Guam to drive cultural conversations through teaching, community programs, or government work.

■ Joshua Tingson (2020 B.S. in Chemistry) is beginning his doctorate in chemistry at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey with an interest in researching cancer treatment. ***(PR)***

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Vacancy Announcement

EXTENDED DEADLINE

PROGRAM OFFICER

Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is looking for a dynamic and enthusiastic team player for the position of Program Officer. The Program Officer works creatively to develop and implement a variety of humanities programs and events and manages the Council's Community Grants program. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties and responsibilities may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

Applicants for this position are expected to demonstrate: (1) cultural competencies and inclusiveness in communications and program implementation; (2) ability to prioritize and undertake multiple, diverse activities and programs; (3) flexibility and willingness to respond to stakeholders and special assignments to meet project goals and organizational needs; (4) strong analytic skills for identifying issues and solutions; (5) ability to lead a team and work in a collaborative environment; (6) exceptional organizational skills and attention to detail; and (7) strong writing and communication skills.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, preferably in the humanities; and relevant experience in program and event planning, assessment and evaluation, and grants management. The salary range is from $35,000 to $40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual and include vacation leave, sick leave, personal days, health insurance and IRA contributions.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1) a Letter of Interest; (2) a detailed resume; (3) a recent writing sample (500-800 words; preferably on a humanities topic); (4) three Letters of Recommendations; and (5) names and addresses of three references to Leo Pangelinan, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, PO Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2020. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

A COLLECTION OF ARTICLES WRITTEN BY THE DCRM SUMMER INTERNS OF 2020

FROM RIDGE TO REEF

NATALIE MONTANO
2020 Summer Intern
DCRM Geographic Information Systems

GIS GALORE

This summer, I worked on two geographic information system (GIS) related projects for managing coastal resources. Through my internship, I learned much about current environmental management programs happening in the CNMI.

The first project I worked on, User Capacity Assessment of Prime Tourist Sites (UCAPTS), was a continuation of a project started in 2019 by the previous GIS intern, Dianne Pablo. UCAPTS is a long-term coastal resource management project and a component of UCAPTS is to work with the Permitting Section to collect yearly marine sports operator data. The data collected aids the DCRM Planning section with area prioritization and resource management goals based on user-density and revenue generated by area. I was tasked with quantifying the economic value of Saipan's coastal resources in 2020 with this data in order to identify capacity limits in areas of operation. ArcGIS Pro was used to create maps that show the annual average value of operation and operator density for a given area. The sum of the annual values of all operators in 2020 decreased from last year. Although, in context with the ongoing pandemic, these 2020 MSO figures are not wholly representative of MSO revenue due to the major reduction in tourist numbers. However, these projected figures are still important for the long-term as they represent how valuable these ecosystems are and indicate the economic significance of managing them sustainably.

Second, I assisted with a pilot program for updating the current map definitions of Saipan's shoreline areas of particular concern (APC). Shoreline APCs are defined as the area between the high tide line and 150 feet inland. Currently, these APCs are measured from the mean higher high water mark, but the update aims to measure from the high tide mark. In this program, we used a Trimble Geo7x (GPS) with an attached Tempest antenna and walked along the shoreline of Forbidden beach. We then used GPS Pathfinder Office to do post-processing corrections to obtain higher accuracy positions as well as created a buffer of 150 feet in accordance with the definitions of shoreline APCs. The major APC updates will take place later in the year due to higher wave conditions that occur between October to March (Sea Engineering, Inc. 2018). This update in shoreline APCs is crucial to regulating areas of environmental sensitivity or frequent use in order to protect land and coastal resources.

LANCE TUDELA
2020 Summer Intern
DCRM Shoreline Monitoring Program

THROUGH A COASTAL PLANNER'S EYE

We all know that Saipan has its fair share of eroding beaches. But what particular areas? How fast are these beaches eroding? This is where we come in. This summer, I had the opportunity to be a second-year intern at the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), under the Shoreline Monitoring Program. I, along with two other interns, Marvin and Britney, conducted shoreline monitoring at various beaches along the western coastline of Saipan.

We measured the slope of the shoreline at different head stakes and compared it to past data to see how much a shore has changed over time. Measuring the shore allows us to determine whether it's eroding (losing sand), accreting (gaining sand) or stable (no change). Through this internship I was able to visit more beaches than I was accustomed to, and I enjoyed every bit of it. This data is crucial for coastal planning and shoreline development, whether it's building a small playground or a huge hotel.

In order to strengthen the Shoreline Monitoring Program, I was in charge of updating the 2020 Shoreline Monitoring Map. I was able to familiarize myself with Microsoft Excel by entering data and using formulas to create beach profiles, which show the contour of the shoreline as it slopes. I also got to use ArcGIS for the first time, which is a software used to create the map. The updated Shoreline Monitoring Map is available for public access on the DCRM website: www.dcrm.gov.mp.

Through this internship I was able to look at the shoreline from a coastal planner's eye. Some people may look at the beach and only see the horizon and beautiful water. But after my experiences this summer, when I look at the shore, I see the features and characteristics of the shoreline, from the eroding berms near Hyatt to the lush shoreline vegetation at Wing Beach.

@CNMIDCRM @GOINGCOASTAL_CNMI
FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY FOR THE 2021 COHORT VISIT WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP

A COLLECTION OF ARTICLES WRITTEN BY THE DCRM SUMMER INTERNS OF 2020

FROM RIDGE TO REEF

SEARCHING THROUGH AN OCEAN OF PEOPLE

ESTHER HUH
2020 Summer Intern
DCRM Coral Reef Initiative
Communications

How do you determine that an individual might pursue a certain education, career, and even lifestyle? According to Heather Joshi of University College London, UK, she states that "information on the past helps anticipate the future". As an Education and Outreach intern, I was given the opportunity to reach out through different communication methods. Throughout the internship, I worked with the CZ Communications intern and the Geographic Information Systems intern on the "Intern Longitudinal Study". A longitudinal study is a type of research that looks to gather data on long-term effects of a selected group. We used this method to "track" the interns who go on to pursue degrees and/or employment in environmental science related fields. The data from their before-and-after experience will help to determine whether the internship program is successful at building local capacity for resource management in the CNMI.

First, we searched through and collected the data of every intern from 2002 - 2019 from their respective files and compiled them into a single spreadsheet. Based on the information available to us we were able to decide which methods we would use to contact them - email, phone, and social media. After compiling the data, we worked together to design three surveys (pre-internship, demographics, and post-internship) that would help us gather specific information on their educational and professional backgrounds. The pre-survey is given to new interns to take prior to starting their internships. Demographics is a survey of overall characteristics of a population such as race, ethnicity, education, occupation, etc. Finally, the post-survey is given to those finishing up and seeks to gather information on the path each intern intends to take after their internship ends. After creating the surveys, we searched for the whereabouts of past interns. We had two ways of connecting with those individuals: send out emails or call to complete the demographics survey. We got in touch with some through searching online - through Facebook and Instagram - although email was most effective.

It was not easy reaching out to 20 years of past interns, however, we still managed to get about 40 survey responses, which is about 26% of the total list. Thank you DCRM for having me as an intern for two years. I will cherish our memorable experiences together.

THOMAS BENAVENTE
2020 Summer Intern
DCRM Marine Monitoring Team

WHAT LIES BENEATH THE TIDES

The marine resources of the CNMI are a treasure.

They provide so much for coastal communities from recreational activities to food and medicine. In order to preserve this treasure it is important that we observe and document the changes that have occurred in our reef ecosystems and explore ways in which we can better protect them.

The Division of Coastal Resources Management's (DCRM) Marine Monitoring Team (MMT) works to document changes to coral reefs and seagrass beds in the CNMI. As an MMT intern under the DCRM Summer Internship, I was able to take part in a project that gave me a better understanding of what lies beneath the tides around us. Our project focuses on conducting surveys that quantify the amount and types of marine life in the Saipan lagoon. Common metrics that we survey for include: benthic cover, coral and algal diversity, and invertebrate and reef-fish densities. These surveys are conducted bi-annually and provide an assessment of reef health. Additionally, the data can be used to evaluate how the reef has changed over time.

We use a variety of tools to conduct the surveys including water-resistant paper, underwater cameras, transect lines, and a GPS, among others. After the team collects the data from a monitoring site, my fellow intern and I would assist each other with inputting the data into a database. Lastly, we compare the data from the newly completed survey to data from surveys done in past years, which helps us identify differences or changes in that environment. One study on coral disease determined that "current information regarding the effects of coral diseases on Indo-Pacific reefs lags behind that of the Caribbean." (Myers and Raymundo, 2009) Over the years, more blue-green algae and turf algae are taking over the seagrass and corals in the Saipan lagoon. This is harmful and is usually a result of land-based pollution, like dirt and chemicals, which are washed into the water from land - a concept of Ridge to Reef. The data must continue to be assessed to ensure our marine environment is protected from human activities.

This summer, I have helped conduct surveys to monitor the lagoon, used benthic datasheets to note the seafloor at the designated sites, and I can now compare what I found this summer to what was found in surveys from the past. I have received new knowledge about what is out there, including the different examples of sea cucumbers and sea urchins lying around. I have also been made aware of the different diseases affecting the coral colonies. This all helps to be wary of the water quality and hopeful for more careful planning and development. I plan to use this experience to work in the local community after the internship. It was an appreciable adventure to be part of the 2020 DCRM Internship cohort.

@CNMIDCRM @GOINGCOASTAL_CNMI
FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY FOR THE 2021 COHORT VISIT WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. DIANA M. QUITUGUA, Defendant.	Civil Action No. 10-0261 SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 20th day of September, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **24th day of September, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 326 R 14, (part of Lot 326 R 13, which was part of Lot 326 R 08, part Lot 316 R 02, part original Lot 316 R 01), containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 326 R 00, the original of which recorded on June 2, 1998 as Document No. 98-1643 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing or by email with full name and complete signature to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com.
5. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Bidders are to contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 3rd day of August, 2020.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff, MPLT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LILY A HOCOG, Deceased.	Civil Action No. 11-0197 NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Granting MPLT's Second Petition to Sell Real Property Secured by Mortgaged to Satisfy MPLT's Claim against the Estate entered in the above titled action on July 02, 2020, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust from Descendant Lily A. Hocog. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **September 24, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.,** at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room in Capital Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 330 R 035, containing an area of 859 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Land and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 330 R 02 dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-858, dated March 16, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
5. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of July, 2020.

/s/
ROBERT T. TORRES, F0197
Auctioneer

Business

White House is mulling options to prevent airline furloughs

The White House is considering whether it can take action to prevent thousands of job losses in the airline industry a month before the election if it cannot reach a deal with Congress on a broader package of additional pandemic relief.

President Donald Trump's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, said Wednesday that "if Congress is not going to work, this president is going to get to work and solve some problems. So hopefully we can help out the airlines and keep some of those employees from being furloughed."

This week, American Airlines said that it will furlough 17,500 union employees, including flight attendants and pilots, and lay off 1,500 management and support staff in October. It said it will make the cuts unless Washington provides another $25 billion to help passenger airlines cover payroll costs through next March. Delta said it will furlough 1,941 pilots unless their union agrees to cost-cutting measures.

The airlines and their unions are putting pressure on Congress and the White House to approve more taxpayer help for their industry.

Earlier this year, Congress and Trump agreed on a $2.2 trillion package of pandemic relief that contained $50 billion in grants and loans for passenger airlines, including the payroll money. The airlines were prohibited from terminating employees while taking the grants, but the cash and the ban on furloughs end Sept. 30.

Airlines and their labor unions have lined up support from bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate. However, the fate of the proposal is uncertain because negotiations between the White House and congressional Democrats over a larger virus-relief package have stalled.

Meadows said Trump has spoken with people at American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

Sara Nelson, the president of the Association of Flight Attendants, said Meadows' remarks indicate that the lobbying by airline unions is working. She said, however, that "executive orders will not save our jobs," and that approval by Congress is still needed.

When Washington first approved airline aid, it was designed to help the carriers survive until air travel and ticket sales improved. While there was a pickup in late spring, the recovery stalled in July and August.

More ominously, the industry's global trade group, the International Air Transport Association, predicts that air travel won't return to 2019 levels until 2024. That could set the stage for many more rounds of lobbying for additional aid. ***(AP)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER:
DENTAL CARE, INC.

THE POSITION:
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRER

JOB DESCRIPTION:
Test, adjust, or repair biomedical or electromedical equipment. Biomedical equipment technician, radiology equipment servicer, surgical instrument mechanic.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must be at least high school graduate.
EXPERIENCE: With at least 24 months of relevant work experience as a Medical Equipment Repairer.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must have a certificate of work experience in the field of dentistry technician; Must be able to show the ability to maintain dental instruments, Cavitron, sterilizer, x-ray and developers, suction pumps; and Must be able to dismantle and reconstruct dental chairs.

Job Site: D' Torres Bldg., Suite 103, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail resume and/or application letter to:
SCOT L. THOMPSON
DENTAL CARE, INC.
Office Address: D' Torres Bldg., Suite 103Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10001, PMB 807, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address:
dentalcaresaipan@gmail.com
Telephone Numbers: (670) 287-7268

TikTok CEO resigns amid US pressure to sell video app

HONG KONG (AP)—TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer resigned Thursday amid U.S. pressure for its Chinese owner to sell the popular video app, which the White House says is a security risk.

In a letter to employees, Mayer said that his decision to leave comes after the "political environment has sharply changed."

His resignation follows President Donald Trump's order to ban TikTok unless its parent company, ByteDance, sells its U.S. operations to an American company within 90 days.

"I have done significant reflection on what the corporate structural changes will require, and what it means for the global role I signed up for," he said in the letter. "Against this backdrop, and as we expect to reach a resolution very soon, it is with a heavy heart that I wanted to let you all know that I have decided to leave the company."

Bytedance is currently in talks with Microsoft for the U.S. firm to buy TikTok's U.S. operations.

Mayer, a former Disney executive, joined TikTok as CEO in May.

TikTok thanked Mayer.

"We appreciate that the political dynamics of the last few months have significantly changed what the scope of Kevin's role would be going forward, and fully respect his decision," the company said in a statement.

ByteDance launched TikTok in 2017, then bought Musical.ly, a video service popular with teens in the U.S. and Europe, and combined the two. A twin service, Douyin, is available for Chinese users.

TikTok gained immense popularity via its fun, goofy videos and ease of use, and has hundreds of millions of users globally.

But its Chinese ownership has raised concerns about potential censorship of videos, including those critical of the Chinese government, and the risk Beijing may access user data.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of August 28, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Luana Inc. dba Heart of Gold Divers	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-163-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	Grotto, Obyan Beach, Wing Beach, Laulau Bay, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 08/07/2020
2. World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort	08/12/2020 SSm-2020-X-075	Demolition of Concrete Tables	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 08/14/2020
3. Bisnes-Mami Saipan, Inc. dba NAPA Auto & Truck Parts	08/21/2020 SW-2020-X-076	Construction of Warehouse & Loading Dock	San Jose, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Nation

Lawyer: Jacob Blake paralyzed

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP)—Jacob Blake, the Black man shot multiple times by police in Wisconsin, is paralyzed, and it would "take a miracle" for him to walk again, his family's attorney said Tuesday, while calling for the officer who opened fire to be arrested and others involved to lose their jobs.

The shooting of Blake on Sunday in Kenosha — apparently in the back while three of his children looked on — was captured on cellphone video and ignited new protests over racial injustice in several cities, coming just three months after the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police touched off a wider reckoning on race.

Some demonstrations devolved into unrest, including for a third night in Kenosha, where multiple gunshots could be heard in social media posts from at least one neighborhood where residents and people carrying long guns and other weapons remained in the streets hours after they city's 8 p.m. curfew. Kenosha Police were investigating after videos appeared to show at least two people with gunshot wounds, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

Earlier Tuesday, Blake's father spoke alongside other family members and lawyers, telling reporters that police shot his son "seven times, seven times, like he didn't matter."

"But my son matters. He's a human being and he matters," said Blake's father, who is also named Jacob Blake.

The 29-year-old was in surgery Tuesday, said attorney Ben Crump, adding that the bullets severed Blake's spinal cord and shattered his vertebrae. Another attorney said there was also severe damage to organs.

» Protests erupt for 3rd night

"It's going to take a miracle for Jacob Blake Jr. to ever walk again," Crump said.

The legal team plans to file a civil lawsuit against the police department over the shooting. Police have said little about what happened, other than that they were responding to a domestic dispute. The officers involved have not been named. The Wisconsin Department of Justice is investigating.

Police fired tear gas for a third night Tuesday to disperse protesters who had gathered outside Kenosha's courthouse, where some shook a protective fence and threw water bottles and fireworks at officers lined up behind it. Police then used armored vehicles and officers with shields pushed back the crowd when protesters ignored warnings to leave a nearby park.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers had called for calm Tuesday, while also declaring a state of emergency under which he doubled the National Guard deployment in Kenosha from 125 to 250. The night before crowds destroyed dozens of buildings and set more than 30 fires in the city's downtown.

"We cannot allow the cycle of systemic racism and injustice to continue," said Evers, who is facing mounting pressure from Republicans over his handling of the unrest. "We also cannot continue going down this path of damage and destruction."

Blake's mother, Julia Jackson, said the damage in Kenosha does not reflect what her family wants and that, if her son could see it, he would be "very unpleased."

She said the first thing her son said to her when she saw him was he was sorry.

"He said, 'I don't want to be a burden on you guys,'" Jackson said. "'I want to be with my children, and I don't think I'll walk again.'"

Three of the younger Blake's sons — aged 3, 5 and 8 — were in the car at the time of the shooting, Crump said. It was the 8-year-old's birthday, he added.

The man who said he made the cellphone video of the shooting, 22-year-old Raysean White, said he saw Blake scuffling with three officers and heard them yell, "Drop the knife! Drop the knife!" before the gunfire erupted. He said he didn't see a knife in Blake's hands.

In the footage, Blake walks from the sidewalk around the front of his SUV to his driver-side door as officers follow him with their guns drawn and shout at him. As Blake opens the door and leans into the SUV, an officer grabs his shirt from behind and opens fire. Seven shots can be heard, though it isn't clear how many struck Blake or how many officers fired.

Blake's father told the Chicago Sun-Times that his son had eight holes in his body.

Anger over the shooting has spilled into the streets of Kenosha and other cities, including Los Angeles, Wisconsin's capital of Madison and in Minneapolis, the epicenter of the Black Lives Matter movement this summer following Floyd's death.

Hundreds of people again defied curfew Tuesday in Kenosha, where destruction marred protests the previous night as fires were set and businesses vandalized. There were 34 fires associated with that unrest, with 30 businesses destroyed or damaged along with an unknown number of residences, Kenosha Fire Chief Charles Leipzig told the Kenosha News.

GOP convention defends police as racial tension rises anew

BALTIMORE (AP)—Republicans aggressively defended law enforcement on the third night of their convention, as the nation faced renewed tensions following the police shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man in Wisconsin, that sparked protests in a state that could decide the fall election.

Vice President Mike Pence, the evening's featured speaker, seized on the national reckoning over racial injustice to argue that Democratic leaders are allowing lawlessness to prevail in cities from coast to coast. He and others described cities wracked by violence, though protests in most locations have been largely peaceful.

"The American people know we don't have to choose between supporting law enforcement and standing with African American neighbors to improve the quality of life in our cities and towns," he said. He also assailed Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden for saying there is an "implicit bias" against minorities and "systemic racism" in the U.S.

"The hard truth is ... you won't be safe in Joe Biden's America," Pence said. "Let me be clear: The violence must stop – whether in Minneapolis, Portland, or Kenosha," he added. "Too many heroes have died defending our freedom to see Americans strike each other down."

"The American people know we don't have to choose between supporting law enforcement and standing with our African American neighbors to improve the quality of their lives, education, jobs and safety."

But Pence never mentioned Blake, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor or other Black people who have been killed by police this year, spurring a new nationwide protest movement.

Meanwhile, the steady image Republicans were aiming to portray of President Donald Trump at the convention was running into a turbulent outside reality: the police shooting of Blake, 29, in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the potentially catastrophic hurricane bearing down on the Gulf Coast, wildfires that have ravaged huge areas of California and the still-raging coronavirus pandemic that is killing more than 1,000 Americans a day.

The historic convergence of health, economic, environmental and social emergencies is only increasing the pressure on Trump, as he looks to reshape the contours of his lagging campaign against former Vice President Biden with Election Day just 10 weeks off and early voting beginning much sooner.

Pence, the chair of the White House coronavirus task force, did defend the administration's handling of the pandemic, a political liability that was otherwise largely absent from the convention program.

The program Wednesday night was—as the president often says of Biden—low energy, with no major headline speaker beside the vice president and few boldface names. And it lacked some of the production elements that had made previous nights memorable, including slickly produced videos and surprise announcements, such as an unexpected presidential pardon and a citizenship ceremony.

Not that the proceedings lacked tough talk.

"From Seattle and Portland to Washington and New York, Democrat-run cities across this country are being overrun by violent mobs," contended South Dakota Gov Kristi Noem. "People that can afford to flee have fled. But the people that can't—good, hard-working Americans —are left to fend for themselves."

Pence opened his remarks with a word of warning to those in the path of Hurricane Laura, which was forecast to make landfall overnight on the Gulf Coast at the Louisiana-Texas border. Despite the expected devastation, campaign officials insisted Trump would still deliver his acceptance address Thursday evening as planned.

"This is a serious storm," Pence said. "And we urge all those in the affected areas to heed state and local authorities. Stay safe, and know that we'll be with you every step of the way to support, rescue, respond, and recover in the days and weeks ahead."

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- ANA FRANCES I. GATBONTON and IVANN I. GATBONTON, Defendants.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0128) SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 26, 2018, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot no. 011 G 262, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 799 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:
799 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances: None Material

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, September 25, 2020 at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of sale.

DATED, this 18th day of August, 2020;

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of JOAQUINA NEKAFES KANIKI, Deceased, Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0225) SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 7, 2019, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 015 D 54, situated in Sugar King Estates, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 015 D 00, the original which was registered on September 11, 1975, as Document no. 4841, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Total area of the property:
982 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances: None

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 25, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 18th day of August, 2020

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2015 TOYOTA COROLLA LE

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859/ (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties

A vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2008 MAZDA 3 4SDN

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859/ (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties

A vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2017 MAZDA 6 - 4 DOOR SEDAN

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859/ (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties

A vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Asia

China protests alleged US spy plane incursion during drills

BEIJING (AP)—China is protesting the alleged incursion of a U.S. Air Force U-2 spy plane into a no-fly zone imposed during live-fire military exercises in the country's north.

In a statement issued late Tuesday, the Ministry of National Defense said the action had "seriously interfered in normal exercise activities" and "severely incurred the risk of misjudgment and even of bringing about an unintended air-sea incident."

"This was a naked act of provocation," the ministry said, quoting spokesperson Wu Qian. China has lodged a stern protest and demanded the U.S. cease such actions, Wu said.

The statement did not give details on the time and place of the drills, but the information matches exercises the Maritime Safety Administration said started Monday and would run through Sept. 30 over the Bohai Gulf east of Beijing.

Relations between the U.S. and China have sunk to their lowest in decades amid disputes over myriad issues including trade, technology, Taiwan and the South China Sea.

The high-altitude U-2 reconnaissance planes were flown over China, the former Soviet Union and other countries in the Communist bloc during the Cold War and upgraded versions continue to support U.S. missions.

AP

In this Aug. 1, 2017, file photo, visitors look at a scale model of a Chinese aircraft carrier during an exhibition to mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army at the military museum in Beijing.

China is also holding naval drills in the South China Sea, which it claims virtually in its entirety but over which five other governments also exercise claims. China objects to all U.S. military activity in and over the strategic waterway, especially "freedom of navigation operations" during which U.S. Navy ships sail near to Chinese-held islands.

Another naval exercise is planned from Thursday to Sunday in the East China Sea despite warnings issued over Typhoon Bavi, which is affecting the Korean Peninsula.

The defense ministry earlier this month said combat exercises were held in the Taiwan Strait and surrounding waters that were a "necessary move responding to the current security situation in the Taiwan Strait and were meant to safeguard national sovereignty."

China claims Taiwan is its territory and threatens to use military force to bring under its control the island that is a self-governing democracy and close U.S. ally. Washington and Taipei have increased military and governmental contacts in recent years and this month, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar became the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Taiwan, prompting a Chinese protest.

Thai leader says tensions over protests endanger nation

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's prime minister on Wednesday described the country's future as dire if escalating political tensions over demands by pro-democracy demonstrators for his government to resign aren't resolved.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said political polarization due to the growing protests could destroy the nation.

"If each side insists on defeating the other politically, our country will collapse," he told reporters. "If that happens, just wait and see, everyone will live on a fiery land, consumed by flames. If that happens I am at a loss for what to do."

The student-led protests in many schools across Thailand have been non violent. Leading activists have been arrested on the serious charge of sedition, but courts so far have allowed their release on bail and authorities have made little serious effort to ban demonstrations.

Prayuth faces threats by the demonstrators to escalate their campaign, as well as pressure from conservative groups that oppose the protesters, especially when some extend their criticism to the monarchy, a sacrosanct institution protected by law.

He also is under pressure in Parliament, where a major coalition partner opposes military plans to include funding for two submarines in the new national budget.

Prayuth has framed the problem as one of contending political viewpoints rather than singling out the student protesters for blame.

However, he professed a similar position as army commander in 2014 of seeking to restore calm during more serious political confrontations, but then led a coup that favored the interests of royalist conservatives over pro-democracy forces.

Prayuth served as prime minister in the post-coup military regime and returned as prime minister after a general election last year. Laws guiding the election were widely seen as so heavily rigged in Prayuth's favor that victory was all but guaranteed, which is why protesters seek new polls. They also want the army-installed constitution to be amended and harassment of government critics to cease.

Police on Wednesday continued their crackdown on the protest movement, arresting two more activists on charges of sedition and several other offenses.

Those arrested—Tattep Ruangprapaikitseree and James Panumas Singprom—are members of the Free Youth movement, a key part of the growing pro-democracy protest coalition.

A total of 13 activists have now been charged in connection with the recent protests. All including the two arrested Wednesday have been released on bail.

The arrests have done little to deter the activists. They have declared they will hold a major protest in September if their demands are not met.

World

UN WATCHDOG:

Iran to allow access to 2 suspected nuke sites

BERLIN (AP)—Iran has agreed to allow inspectors in to two sites where the country is suspected of having stored or used undeclared nuclear material, the U.N. atomic watchdog agency said Wednesday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran was "voluntarily providing the IAEA with access to the two locations specified by the IAEA and facilitating the IAEA verification activities to resolve the issues."

It said in a joint statement with Iran that the dates for the inspections had been agreed, but did not elaborate. IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi wouldn't name the dates after returning to Vienna on Wednesday evening, but said they will take place "very, very soon." He called the outcome "very important" for peace and security.

The inspections would resolve a months-long impasse between Iran and the IAEA. Grossi's visit to Tehran this week was his first since taking over as the agency's leader in December.

"Iran must fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency," said a United Kingdom spokesperson, who by tradition is not named. "We welcome Iran's commitment to grant access to the agency and fully support the IAEA and its safeguards mandate, which is an essential part of the non-proliferation system."

Iran had been resisting providing access to the sites, which are thought to be from the early 2000s, before it signed the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, maintaining the IAEA had no legal basis to visit them.

The head of Iran's nuclear agency, Ali Akbar Salehi, confirmed that Iran had agreed to the inspections, saying "this will bring the case to an end."

"We are loyal to conventions and our commitments," he said, adding that he hoped the agreement would open a new chapter between Iran and the IAEA based upon "good intentions and mutual acceptance."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who on Wednesday met with the IAEA chief, said Grossi's visit had produced a "good agreement that can help for moving on a correct and proper path and achieve the final resolution of problems."

As the U.S. and others continue to put more pressure on Iran, Rouhani urged the IAEA to continue its "independence, impartiality and professionalism."

Grossi told IAEA board members in March that it had "identified a number of questions related to possible undeclared nuclear material and nuclear-related activities at three locations that have not been declared by Iran" and had been pressing for access.

In its report in June, the agency said it had determined that one site had undergone "extensive sanitization and leveling" in 2003 and 2004 and there would be no verification value in inspecting it. It said Iran has blocked access to the other two locations, one of which was partially demolished in 2004 and the other at which the agency observed activities "consistent with efforts to sanitize" the facility from July 2019 onward.

Turkey, Greece stick to their guns in escalating Med dispute

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey and Greece both vowed Wednesday to defend their competing claims in the eastern Mediterranean as the neighbors and NATO allies remained locked in a tense dispute over offshore energy exploration rights.

Greece announced plans to extend its territorial waters along its western coastline—which does not face Turkey—and held a second day of military exercises in waters where Ankara is challenging Athens' asserted maritime jurisdiction.

To the alarm of western allies, both countries sent warships to shadow each other this month in an area between Crete and Cyprus where Turkey has a vessel prospecting for potential gas and oil deposits. The Greek and Turkish militaries both engaged in exercises within that part of the sea on Tuesday.

"Turkey will take what is its right in the Mediterranean, in the Aegean and in the Black Sea," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. "Just as we have no eyes (on) anyone's territory, sovereignty and interests, we will never compromise on what belongs to us. We are determined to do whatever is necessary in political, economic and military terms."

Erdogan's tough words came despite mediation efforts by Germany, whose foreign minister conducted shuttle diplomacy between Athens and Ankara a day earlier.

"We invite our interlocutors to get their act together and to avoid mistakes that will lead to their ruin," he said.

In Athens, meanwhile, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said Greece is planning to exercise its legal right to extend its territorial waters along its western coastline, which faces Italy, from six to 12 nautical miles.

The planned extension would not affect the territory at the center of the Greek-Turkish dispute. But the prime minister told parliament that Greece was abandoning decades of "passive" foreign policy. Turkey has warned in the past that an extension of Greek waters to 12 nautical miles in the Aegean Sea, facing the Turkish littoral, would be seen as a reason to declare war on Greece.

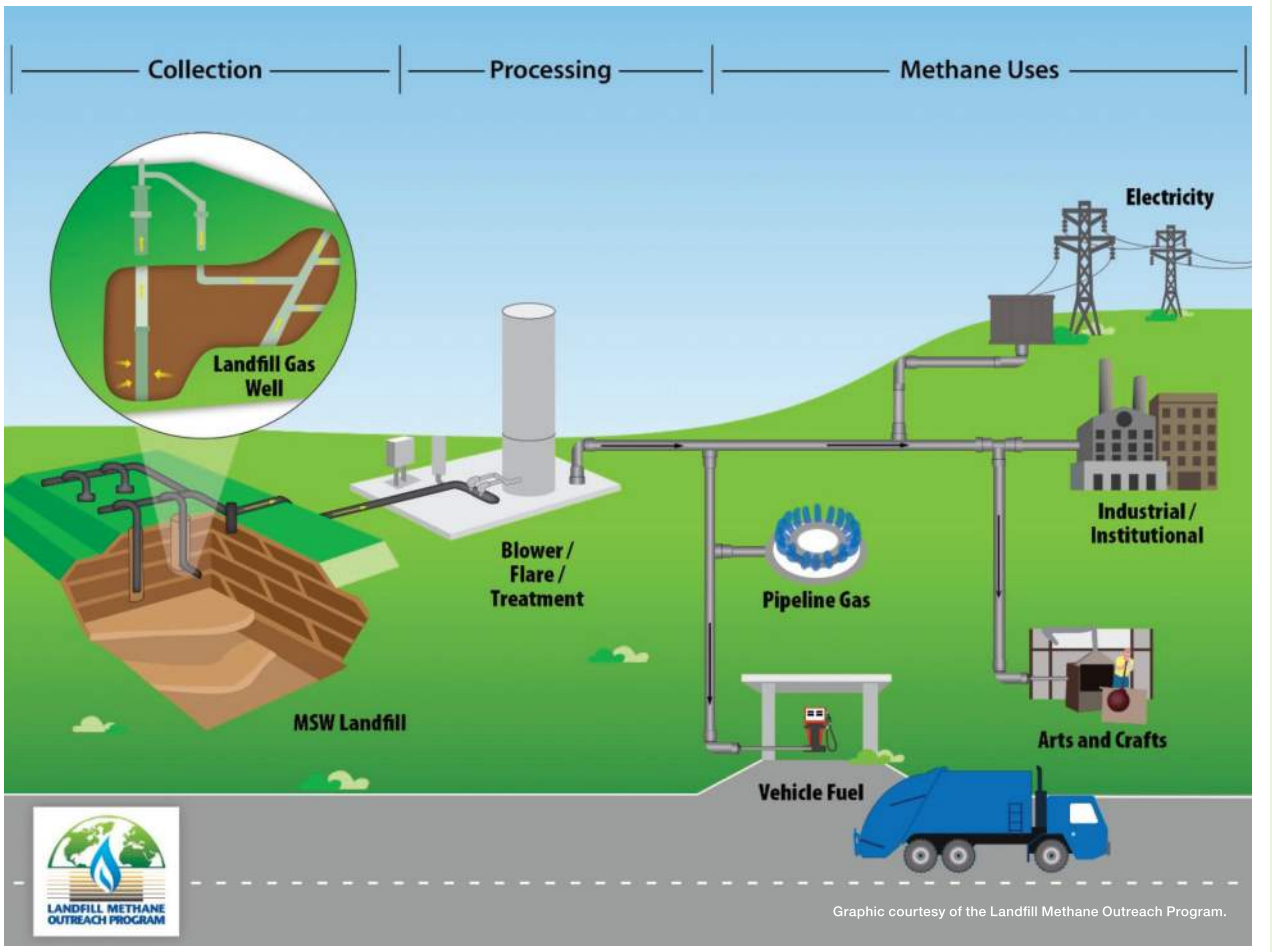
Mitsotakis, speaking in parliament, described Turkey's actions as "illegal and provocative" but added that Athens was willing to start talks with Ankara as part of a German-brokered initiative—only if the Turkish seismic surveying work were halted. "Our position is crystal clear and can be summarized in six words: When provocations stop, talks can start," he said during a debate on the ratification of deals Greece recently made with Italy and Egypt setting out maritime boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones. Greece's deal with Egypt in particular has drawn the ire of Turkey.

Saipan Landfills Studied for
Beneficial Use of Landfill Gas

In April 2019, EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc. completed the ***Landfill Gas Extraction Feasibility Study*** commissioned by the CNMI Department of Public Works and the Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse through funding provided by the US Department of Interior-Energizing Insular Communities Grant (D17AP00092). The purpose of this study was to assess renewable energy potential through the extraction of methane gas from two landfill sites on Saipan, the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park (formerly known as the Puerto Rico Dump) and the Marpi Solid Waste Facility (also known as the Marpi Landfill). Tests conducted at these two sites resulted in differing conclusions, ultimately identifying the Marpi Landfill as a potential source for future methane gas extraction. The study concludes that the Marpi Landfill will produce its highest concentrations of methane gas, one-to-two years post-closure of the landfill, reaching at maximum capacity by year 2048.

In the United States, there is an increasing demand for municipal landfills to capture gas and burn it to generate energy. This provides several benefits including producing energy to offset the cost of operating the landfill, reducing the amount of odorous gas emitted from the landfill, and it can lessen the amount of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere. Methane, for example, is a potent greenhouse gas that has 30 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.

The CNMI, like many other islands in Micronesia relies upon imported fossil fuels for its energy needs. In recent years, the CNMI's public and private sectors have increased investments into renewable energy sources, attempting to curtail the islands' reliance on fossil-fuelled power generation. Although this trend has shown promise, the recent growth of the CNMI's economy has only increased the islands' demand for energy production, far outpacing the development of the CNMI's renewable energy portfolio. As a result, the CNMI is continually searching for alternative sources of energy to supplement the islands' mounting energy needs. Such was the impetus for the landfill gas study which details the process by which methane gas is created within our landfills and its current and anticipated methane concentration levels.



Graphic courtesy of the Landfill Methane Outreach Program.

What is Methane and How is it Produced in Landfills?

Methane is a flammable gas, which along with carbon dioxide are naturally occurring by-products of the decomposition process. Methane is the main component of natural gas and depending on its mixture with other elements, methane fuels a variety of applications. Methane fuel powers everything from simple household appliances (i.e., ovens, water heaters, etc.), to vehicles and even rocket and jet engines.

On Saipan, all household and industrial solid waste is processed by the CNMI Department of Public Works, which segregates all received waste into three main categories: recyclables, construction waste and landfill waste. This diversion process eliminates nearly a third of all garbage that would otherwise enter the Marpi Landfill, substantially extending the useful life of the facility. On average, the Marpi Landfill receives approximately 25,000 tons (or 50 million pounds) of waste-per-year, majority of which is biodegradable. Once the waste is transported into the landfill, microbes begin the process of decomposing the organic waste from which the landfill gases of methane and carbon dioxide are produced in varying quantities over the life of the landfill.

Current and Future Methane Concentration Levels

For the purposes of ***Landfill Gas Extraction Feasibility Study***, two sites were selected for landfill gas sampling, the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park and the Marpi Solid Waste Facility. Prior to its opening in March 2017, the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park was once the site of the former Puerto Rico Dump (PRD) which officially ended its operation on February 11, 2003. The Puerto Rico Dump was first used as a metal scrap yard by the military in 1945 and eventually served as the island's sole refuse disposal facility until its 2003 closure. The final capping of the Puerto Rico Dump did not occur until 2011 and has since been repurposed as a scenic park north of the Garapan tourist district.

Nineteen (19) landfill gas sampling probes were installed at various locations along the 20 acre PRD site, of which only five (5) probes provided useful data for analysis. The culmination of the testing concluded that the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park had an average methane content of 46.1%. The data collected indicates that the PRD site's peak methane production occurred in 2004, which had an approximate methane content of 81.75% but has gradually tapered off as no new organic waste has been introduced into the site. This data is supported by other studies which indicate that most landfills produce their highest concentrations of methane gas, typically a year or two after the landfill's closure.

Similarly, the Marpi Solid Waste Facility was also analyzed for its potential to extract methane and the study concluded that the Marpi Landfill currently has a methane content level of 60.3%. Although much higher than the former Puerto Rico Dump's average, the methane content of the Marpi Landfill is still much lower than the potential to be realized after the landfill's closure in 2048. Due to the Marpi Landfill's size it is estimated that the site will potentially produce three (3) times the maximum methane production of the PRD site a year or two after the Marpi Landfill is finally capped off.

The study concludes that the Marpi Solid Waste Facility does possess the potential to produce methane gas in quantities useful for extraction in the future. Unfortunately, the data further revealed that the Marpi Landfill will not produce enough methane gas to be a cost-effective. It will cost more to install and maintain the landfill gas collection system than it would produce in cost savings for the state. It would be able to power a small-scale generator onsite at the landfill, but nowhere close enough to reach megawatt distribution levels.

In the meantime, the CNMI continues its search for alternative energy sources and other methods of solid waste management, such as Plasma Gasification to protect the delicate ecosystem of our islands and solar photovoltaic systems.

The Marpi Landfill

This informational piece is funded in part by a grant under the Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, through grant award number D17AP00092. Any questions relating to this article may be forwarded to the Division of Solid Waste Management at 322-2745.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

German police alerted to shots, find sleeping man and TV

BERLIN (AP)—German police called to the scene of a suspected shooting found a man who had fallen asleep with an action film running at top volume on TV. Police in Cologne said several people on Wednesday morning reported hearing shots from an apartment somewhere in their neighborhood. Several police teams surrounded two neighboring buildings at about 7.30 a.m. and started searching the apartments. The cause of the disturbance was tracked down quickly once officers had called in a locksmith to open a locked door—a slumbering man in front of a television showing an action film. The 34-year-old, who wasn't registered as living at the address, was taken to the police station but let go after his identity was established.

Kayaker reunites author with message in a bottle from 1985

MILTON, Del. (AP)—A kayaker who discovered a message in a bottle floating in a Delaware river was able to reunite the letter with the woman who wrote it 35 years ago. Brad Wachsmuth thought the bottle bobbing in the water about 2 miles (3 kilometers) offshore of the Broadkill River was a piece of trash when he spotted it Aug. 8, just a few days after Tropical Storm Isaias swept through the area, WBOC-TV reported. "As we usually do as kayakers, we try to pick up trash out of the water when we can," he told the station this week. But Wachsmuth's friend noticed there was something inside, and the two fished out the letter written by Cathi Riddle and her cousin, Stacey Wells, dated 35 years ago—Aug. 1, 1985. It described their family pets and asked potential future readers if they had any of their own, among other childhood musings. Wachsmuth brought the letter to the Milton Historical Society and a curator reached out to family and put the two in touch, the news outlet said. Riddle still lived just miles away in Milton, and Wachsmuth was able to return the letter to her Thursday. He said he was surprised it ended up in the same waters after decades of storms and tides, but Riddle suggested that maybe, it was fate. "My cousin and I were staying at the beach and we decided to write the letter and send it out and see how far it went," Riddle told the station. "It didn't travel very far, but perhaps it traveled the world and came back."

Group restoring Northern Michigan inventor's 1800s steel boat for display

HARBOR SPRINGS, MICH.—A rusted, damaged, historically significant boat is now undergoing restoration work with the goal of putting the vessel on display in Harbor Springs. The nonprofit Harbor Springs Area Historical Society began the restorations after city officials requested the removal of the boat, which had been decaying near the city's Department of Public Works building, according to the Associated Press. The boat, named the Aha, was built in 1891 by Ephram Shay, an inventor, engineer, and prominent Harbor Springs resident. Built out of steel -- a rarity, considering most boats from that time were made of wood -- the Aha echoes another one of the inventor's local legacies: A stamped-steel, hexagon-shaped house, now a historic site known as the Shay Hexagon House, where Shay lived out the last years of his life. During a recent Harbor Springs City Council meeting, Kristyn Balog, executive director of the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society, thanked the city council for the "nudge to bring this artifact to life" for the Harbor Springs community. "As a historical society, it is our responsibility that we hold these artifacts in trust for public use, and we would like to make this vessel useful to the public," Balog said. How an 800-mile canoe trip starting at an Up North beach became a turning point in Michigan history. ***(AP)***

Bad boy! Dog costs Mississippi officials more than $7,000

LIBERTY, Miss. (AP)—A curious dog got hold of a fiber optic cable that ran between county buildings in Mississippi, chewing it to pieces and costing county officials thousands of dollars in an attempt to get it fixed. The cable connected a courthouse and a nearby Justice Court building in Amite County, Tim Wroten, the county's sheriff, told the Enterprise-Journal Wednesday. The wire was mostly elevated but dipped to the ground by the front door of the Justice Court building, where the dog chewed it. The culprit was not caught in the act, but officials saw "his running mate" through the security camera, Wroten said. The sheriff has a suspect in mind but lacks evidence to hold up his charge. If officials knew who the troublemaker was, the county could seek damages, which amounts to more than $7,000, from the owner, according to Wroten. His office first spent $4,000 to establish two antennae that send signals to the cables, but it failed. County supervisors then voted Tuesday to spend an additional $3,600 to get a new cable. Amite County Justice Court Judge Roger Arnold said it's his first time hearing a case like this. "I did hear the suspect was still at large," he quipped.

74 days, less than 1 mile later, Tennessee turtle recovered

ASHLAND CITY, Tenn. (AP)—A 150-pound (68-kilogram) tortoise who escaped from a Tennessee home has been returned after 74 days, managing to make it less than a mile during his slow and steady journey. Though the African Sulcata Tortoise named Soloman crawled away from his Ashland City enclosure more than two months ago, he was discovered just an eighth of a mile away from home last week, his owner, Lynn Cole, told WKRN-TV on Friday. Cole said a man and his son spotted Solomon grazing in a valley at a construction site and returned him within minutes. He didn't seem to make it far, but Cole said the true extent of the 15-year-old tortoise's trek remains a mystery. "I guess that we will never know the full details of Solomon's great adventure and how he managed to elude us all for so long," Cole told the news outlet. "No matter his traveled course or intent, thanks to the gentleman and his son who happened to be driving by at that moment, Solomon is now safely at home and, as such, so much joy has been returned to our family." Cole said Solomon is a beloved pet who has been with their family since birth. The owners said they would pay his rescuers a reward for returning him home.

Science & Technology

Sometime soon, your car will park itself in urban garages

A Ford Escape automatically stops as a pedestrian crosses in front during a self park demonstration, Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020 in Detroit. AP

DETROIT (AP)—So after the coronavirus threat has passed, you head downtown for a baseball game.

You get to the parking garage, and using an app on your phone, you link your SUV to the garage's computers and sensors, and the SUV finds a spot on the fourth floor and parks itself while you catch batting practice.

This isn't some far-off technology anymore. German auto parts maker Bosch is testing it with Mercedes in Stuttgart. And this week it announced a collaboration with Ford at a garage near downtown Detroit.

Although the backers won't say when the technology could be in widespread use, they say it's one benefit from autonomous-car research that is coming sooner rather than later.

"The goal is as soon as practically possible to deliver a safe experience," says Kevin Bopp, vice president of parking and mobility for Bedrock, the real estate arm of Detroit-based mortgage giant Quicken Loans.

Bedrock owns the parking garage just west of downtown where Ford and Bosch are testing a system using modified Ford Escape small SUVs and about 20 floor-mounted laser sensors.

Bopp sees the technology moving from the test to a residential building where selected tenants would be able to summon vehicles for personal use with the custom parking feature. Data would be gathered and problems worked out, and from there, the systems would spread to other smart garages with sensors and computers.

Since doors don't have to be opened and vehicles can be parked closer together, garage operators can park 15% to 20% more vehicles in the same space, reducing the need for garages and allowing precious city space to be turned into parks or other uses, backers say.

The automated valet parking likely will come before widespread use of fully automated vehicles because existing features can be used to move the vehicles without humans behind the wheel, said Greg Stevens, global manager of driver assist technology for Dearborn, Michigan-based Ford. Garages would have varying levels of sensors and computers, he said.

Some vehicle sensors also could be used, but having the garages work with the vehicles is a good solution, Stevens said. "Some garages will be smarter than others, so our vehicles have to be smarter," he said.

Facebook: Apple privacy changes will muck up online ads

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Facebook is pushing back on new Apple privacy rules for its mobile devices—and putting app developers in the middle.

Apple will soon require apps to ask users for permission to collect data on what devices they are using and to let ads follow them around on the internet. The social network said Wednesday that those rules could reduce what apps can earn by advertising through Facebook's audience network.

Facebook said it expects "less impact" on its own advertising revenue than on the ad-supported businesses that rely on its audience network to promote their apps. The audience network allows Facebook and Instagram advertisers to place their ads elsewhere on the internet.

Apple says the latest version of its mobile operating system, iOS 14, is designed to protect people's privacy. It will require apps to ask users for permission to collect and share data using a unique code that identifies their iPhones and iPads. The update is due later this fall.

Facebook said that because of this change, it will no longer collect the identifier for advertisers on its own apps for iOS 14 devices. It is also asking businesses to create new ad accounts dedicated solely to running ads for apps for iOS 14 users in order to comply with Apple's new rules.

Facebook's stock jumped more than 5% on the news. Wedbush analyst Michael Pachter said the market sees Apple's new rule as likely to shift demand toward Facebook's own targeting system.

"Advertisers are more likely to go with what they know works, which is Facebook targeting," he said.

Pachter said investors clearly think that the competing ad networks run by the likes of Snap and Twitter are going to be put at a disadvantage while titans like Google and Facebook charge ahead.

Currently, if an iPhone user looks at an item on the Amazon app, then looks it up on the Best Buy app, advertisers know that someone is shopping around. So they could deliver a promotion to that user, Pachter said. Once iOS 14 is released, that won't be possible unless users opt in.

"That's going to limit their ability to track a lot of people," he said.

But Facebook will continue to be able to track people through its own systems, which are separate from Apple's device identifiers.

In Facebook's second-quarter earnings call last month, finance chief Dave Wehner said the company is "still trying to understand what these changes will look like and how they will impact us and the rest of the industry. But the very least, it's going to make it harder for app developers and others to grow using ads on Facebook and elsewhere."

Life & Style

Moana's voice, Auli'i Cravalho takes the next step

By LINDSEY BAHR

Auli'i Cravalho's life changed forever at age 14 when she was cast as the voice of Disney's "Moana." The Hawaiian native loved singing and acting, but they were just hobbies to her. So were horseback riding, swimming and microbiology, for that matter. A career in Hollywood seemed implausible at best.

"But life decided to surprise me," said Cravalho, who went from obscurity to performing at the Oscars in just a few months.

Now at 19, Cravalho is checking off another milestone: Her first live-action film, "All Together Now," is being released on Netflix Friday. And once again, she's in the lead.

Based on Matthew Quick's novel "Sorta Like a Rock Star," the film from director Brett Haley finds Cravalho playing a very different kind of character from the adventurous Polynesian princess. Amber is a high school student with a to-die-for voice, an unflappable optimism and a dream of going to Carnegie Mellon. She also happens to be living in a school bus with her alcoholic mother.

"This felt like the next step," she said. "I'm a little older and I love the challenge of showing these tougher emotions and telling these deeper stories."

She'd actually auditioned for Hayley before. She didn't get that part, but he promised he'd remember her.

AP
Auli'i Cravalho arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Mulan" on March 9, 2020. Cravalho stars in the Netflix film "All Together Now."

"I was like, sure, OK, I'm never going to hear from this guy again," she laughed. And then Amber Appleton came along.

"I really related to Amber. I genuinely I understood her optimism," she said. "I am an optimist almost to a fault myself. I also have to kind of get real and be like, 'Oh, wait, I can reach out and ask for help.'"

Cravalho had already had some on-camera experience, including in the short-lived television show "Rise," which was canceled after one season. ("My first heartbreak.") But she was nervous about a feature film and acting opposite people like Carol Burnett.

"My biggest challenge is figuring out what to do with my face on screen," she said.

Thankfully, she had an unusually empathetic and supportive director in Haley, who helped her feel comfortable and gave her space to play around with her character and lines. And he's excited for audiences to see her in a more dramatic role.

"Yes, she's optimistic. Yes, she's bright and shiny. But she also has a depth of emotion. She really is layered. She's not just this Disney princess," Haley said. "I think you can see that in her performance. She goes to so many different places in the role."

Cravalho has for the past few years been living outside of Hawaii, first in New York and now in Los Angeles. She finished up high school on her laptop from the set of "Rise," and she empathizes with all the students having to do that now.

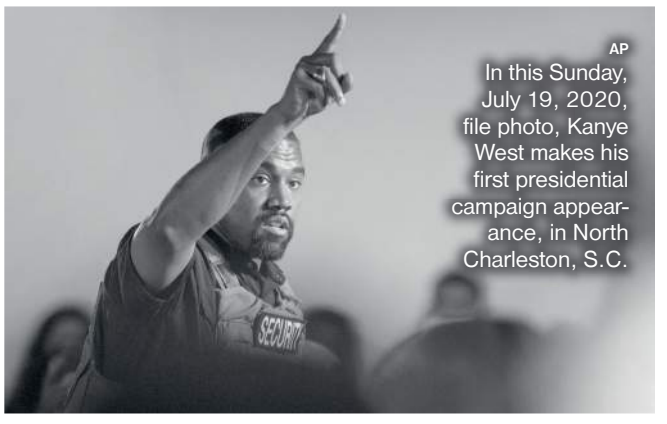
Kanye West sues Ohio election head to get on November ballot

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Rapper Kanye West sued Ohio's election chief Wednesday in an effort to be placed on the November presidential ballot after the Secretary of State deemed him unqualified as an independent candidate.

West's emergency filing against Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose comes days after the election's chief rejected the nearly 15,000 signatures and other paperwork the rapper submitted earlier this month in an attempt to run for president, citing mismatched information on the signature-gathering documents.

In the complaint, attorneys for West's campaign in Ohio allege that it is LaRose's duty to accept any petition for an independent candidate as long as there is no protest filed against the petition and it doesn't violate Ohio law.

Ohio was one of a number of states that denied West's petition to appear on their ballot last week. On Friday, the state elections board in Illinois said West hadn't submitted enough petition signatures and wouldn't be on the ballot. On Thursday, Wisconsin election officials decided to keep West off the battleground state's presidential ballot because his campaign turned in his nomination papers moments after the deadline, while officials in Montana also said he fell short of petitions.

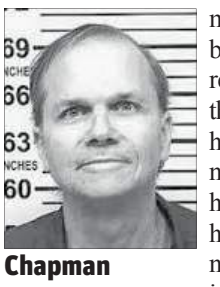


AP
In this Sunday, July 19, 2020, file photo, Kanye West makes his first presidential campaign appearance, in North Charleston, S.C.

John Lennon's killer denied parole for an 11th time

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The man who gunned down John Lennon outside his Manhattan apartment in 1980 was denied parole for an 11th time, state corrections officials said Wednesday.

Mark David Chapman was denied after being interviewed by a parole board Aug. 19, according to corrections officials. Chapman, 65, is serving a 20-years-to-life sentence at Wende Correctional Facility, east of Buffalo.



Chapman

Chapman shot and killed the former Beatle on the night of Dec. 8, 1980, hours after Lennon autographed an album for him. He has said previously that he feels "more and more shame" every year for the crime.

"I was too far in," Chapman told a parole board in 2018. "I do remember having the thought of, 'Hey, you have got the album now. Look at this, he signed it, just go home.' But there was no way I was just going to go home."

Chapman's next parole hearing is scheduled for August 2022.

29-year-old Dutch writer wins International Booker Prize

LONDON (AP)—A 29-year-old Dutch writer has become the youngest author to win the International Booker Prize.

Marieke Lucas Rijneveld's "The Discomfort of Evening," a dark story about a devout farming family in a strict Christian community in the rural Netherlands, was announced as the winner Wednesday.

Under the rules of the prize, the 50,000-pound ($66,000) award will be split between the author and translator Michele Hutchison, giving both equal recognition.

Ted Hodgkinson, who chaired a panel of judges, described the novel as "a tender and visceral evocation of a childhood caught between shame and salvation."

Father-in-law expects future grandchildren to be catholic

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are trying to have children. He was raised Catholic, but is now agnostic. I'm also agnostic.

My deeply religious father-in-law insists that our future children be baptized Catholic. I'm against it because I think it should be a person's right to choose which faith, if any, to follow when they are ready. I also think it would be hypocritical to go through a baptismal ceremony, with godparents and vows to raise our child a certain way when we have no intention of doing it.

My husband thinks it would be best to baptize our future children to "keep the peace," because his father will never forgive us if we don't. I think it's our children, our lives, our ethics. Which of us is right?

OUT IN THE OPEN

DEAR OUT: You are, but I don't envy what's ahead for you. If you knuckle under to your father-in-law, it won't stop. You will be expected to follow through with a Catholic upbringing —first communion, Catholic schools, church attendance "for the children" and everything that comes with it.

You and your husband should bite the bullet, be upfront with his dad before you become pregnant and make plain how you plan to raise your children. If you aren't, raising them in a way you don't want could put a strain on your marriage. This should be your and your husband's decision to make and no one else's, and I don't recommend deviating from it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for four years, and all this time we have lived in separate houses. Now my husband is finally moving in with me. While I'm excited and it's going to be a significant financial benefit for both of us, I'm experiencing mixed emotions and a lot of anxiety about it. He's an awesome man who treats me great. This is a second marriage for both of us. Any advice would be appreciated.

MAKING THE LEAP IN FLORIDA

DEAR MAKING: Under the circumstances, your feelings are normal. This will be a big change for both of you. This is why it's important to talk about your feelings and expectations in advance, which might ease your stress. Being able to communicate honestly with each other is extremely important and will serve you well in the future. With this move you are opening up a new chapter in your lives, and I wish you many years of happiness together.

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, when my wife and I were 35 years old, she agreed to be on a team with me and compete in some "adventure races." It was great fun. We had team T-shirts, trained together and were excited about our results. It brought us closer and created a real sense of camaraderie, adventure and mutual support into our marriage.

During one race a bull broke into the race grounds and chased us. Shortly thereafter, my wife quit the team and, sadly, many of the ancillary benefits declined as well. She will no longer be on a team with me. What should I do?

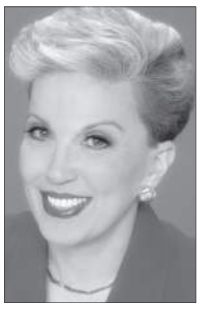
BENCHED IN GEORGIA

DEAR BENCHED: Because this is an activity you enjoy, you should keep going. Because your wife has chosen to retire from adventure racing, you should recruit another partner or find some other activity you both could enjoy together. (And that's no bull.)

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

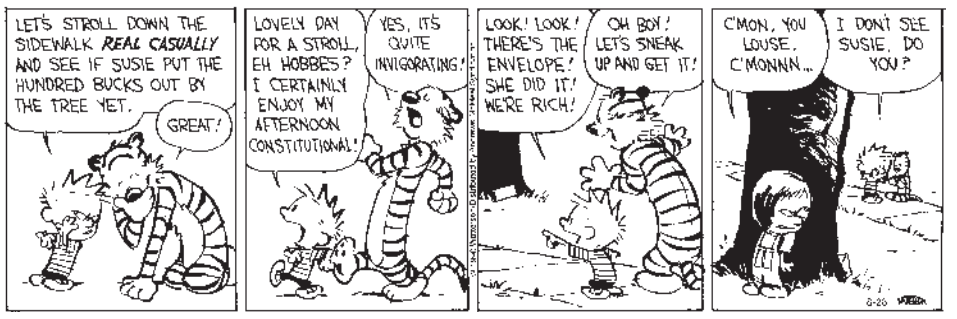


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LET'S STROLL DOWN THE SIDEWALK REAL CASUALLY AND SEE IF SUSIE PUT THE HUNDRED BUCKS OUT BY THE TREE YET.
GREAT!
LOVELY DAY FOR A STROLL, EH HOBBES? I CERTAINLY ENJOY MY AFTERNOON CONSTITUTIONAL!
YES, IT'S QUITE INVIGORATING!
LOOK! LOOK! THERE'S THE ENVELOPE! SHE DID IT! WE'RE RICH!
OH BOY! LET'S SNEAK UP AND GET IT!
C'MON, YOU LOUSE. C'MONNN...
I DON'T SEE SUSIE. DO YOU?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

MUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH
ARE THE COOKIES HELPING YOUR BACK AT ALL?
NOT REALLY. BUT THEY'RE SURE NOT HURTING.
WELL... BETTER TO HAVE COOKIED THAN TO HAVE NOT.
IF I COULD MOVE, I'D FIST BUMP TO THAT.
8-28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lukewarm
6 Priestly garment
9 Toward the stern
12 Saudi's neighbor
13 Hogwash
14 555, to Ovid
15 Desert plant
16 Dallas footballers
18 Sunflower State
20 Theater award
21 Citrus drink
23 A billion years
24 Shelled out
25 Sod
27 Gaggle members
29 Finishing last
31 Actor Keanu
35 Eric Clapton hit
37 Pocket bread
38 Postage
41 Sugary suffix
43 Beer barrel
44 Composer Porter
45 Swiss cereal
47 Las Vegas footballers
49 Shades
52 Takes too much, briefly
53 Diner dessert
54 Moved sideways
55 Summer hrs.
56 Ninny
57 Road curves

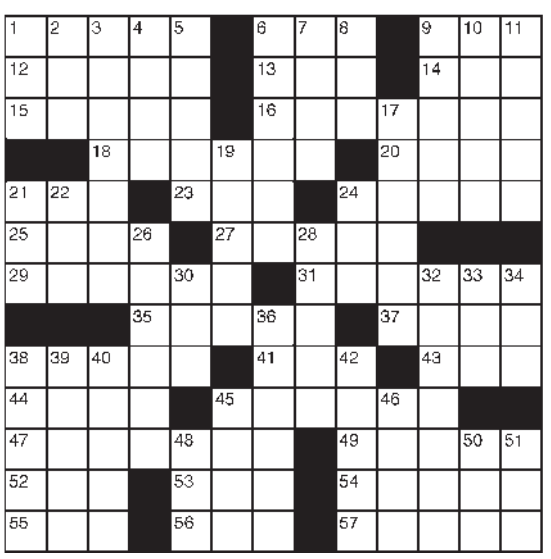
DOWN

1 Plaything
2 Ostrich's kin
3 Green Bay footballers
4 Early Peruvian
5 Keaton of "Morning Glory"
6 Esoteric
7 Novelist Anita
8 "Incidentally," in a text
9 Photoshop maker
10 Arrive by jet
11 Sports bar fixture
17 Shepherd of rhyme
19 Waterlogged
21 Part of NATO
22 Pair with an air
24 Compass dir.
26 Made a movie
28 Obliterate
30 Snooze
32 Minnesota footballers
33 Paris summer
34 Droop
36 Scoundrels
38 Seafood selection
39 Pond hoppers
40 Top invitees
42 Cosmetics mogul Lauder
45 Hosp. scans
46 Pot covers
48 Clean air org.
50 Golf prop
51 Radical '60s gp.

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	E	R	M		F	I	B		G	P	A	S
F	I	I	F		O	W	I		R	F	P	O
A	I	G	A		R	O	O		F	A	S	T
M	A	G	N	U	M		T	R	A	C	F	S
			I	S	U			F	S	F		
D		M	E		L	E	A	V	E	F	C	R
E	T	E			A	N	C			U	R	I
F	O	P	T	I	E	T	H		S	L	C	P
		M	U	M			E	E	K			
P		A	N	O	S		D	R	I	P	P	Y
A	R	I	F		F	I	F		M	O	R	F
P	F	D	I		C	O	O		P	I	F	A
A	S	S	N		T	A	R		S	O	P	II

Yesterday's answer 8-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kyle Massey, 29; Jason Priestley, 51; Jack Black, 51; Shania Twain, 55.

Happy Birthday: You are sitting in a unique position. You have the means to get what you want, but if you let the little things get to you, you'll find it challenging to reach your destination. Concentrate on what's important, and pay attention to maintaining your values, sticking to your budget and achieving what you set out to do. Make self-improvement and expanding your interests your priorities. Your numbers are 5, 17, 22, 26, 33, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Do your part to ensure completion of any project in which you participate. Don't let anyone coerce you into an argument. Take care of business, and move on to more enjoyable pastimes. Be moderate when involved in physical activities. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Get the lowdown before you agree to something someone wants from you. Put your plans first and foremost. You are responsible for what you accomplish, so make it count. Romance is in the stars, so take time to nurture a meaningful relationship. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make adjustments to your living space or arrangements. Don't put up with something or someone who brings you down or causes you grief. Keep your life simple, affordable and clutter-free. Call the shots and follow your dreams. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* It's up to you how you use pent-up emotional energy. You can blame others for things you don't have or didn't do, or you can embrace what life has to offer and turn your ideas into something concrete. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Strategize and formulate the best plan possible before you leap into action. Being prepared will help you alleviate setbacks and interference. Someone from your past will vouch for you or recommend you for a job that is a perfect fit. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Shoot for the stars. Take on a new project, or take care of unfinished business. Today is about progress, closing deals and being responsible for your happiness. Participation will be what leads to being on the inside of any organization you join. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Face facts. If something isn't right, recognize the problem and do something about it. The longer you let someone push you around, the harder it will be to break away and do your own thing. Don't get angry; get moving. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Serious talks will resolve pending problems. Learn from similar experiences, and take care of business before someone beats you at your own game. You have plenty to gain if you are determined to do things your way. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Envision what needs to be done, and get started. Enlist people who can contribute valuable information conducive to reaching your objective. That will enable you to get ahead with your strategy. Be aware that someone close to you may offer false hope. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Reconnecting with someone who has inspired you will be enlightening. An open conversation will make you realize how much you have in common with each other and what you can accomplish as a team. A romantic celebration is encouraged. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't feel you have to abide by someone's rules or follow someone's lead. Aim to please yourself, not someone who is taking advantage of you. Living a lie will not help you get ahead. Someone will reveal a secret. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take the throttle, run the ship and don't look back. Say what's on your mind, and you will gain ground quickly. Share your feelings and intentions with someone you love. A commitment will lead to a new beginning. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are courageous, dependable and determined. You are competitive and savvy.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	1		8	7	5		
9			3					6
		8			2			
7								
	4		3	2	9		8	
								2
		2			6			
4				1				8
	5	6	7			3	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	5	6	7	9	8	2	1	4
1	7	4	6	3	2	8	5	9
9	8	2	1	4	5	3	6	7
7	6	8	4	2	9	1	3	5
2	9	5	8	1	3	7	4	6
4	1	3	5	7	6	9	2	8
6	2	1	9	5	7	4	8	3
8	4	9	3	6	1	5	7	2
5	3	7	2	8	4	6	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ENNIO MORRICONE (1928-2020) Solution: 7 letters

R	E	M	A	E	C	N	O	L	E	E	N	O	E	L
E	M	O	R	A	F	V	V	U	U	I	S	D	T	S
S	I	N	I	S	R	I	I	P	C	F	O	L	R	E
O	T	I	L	T	A	D	V	O	A	L	T	A	A	L
P	B	T	O	W	N	E	N	N	L	H	T	S	V	L
M	U	N	T	O	C	O	R	A	E	M	L	M	I	O
O	G	A	I	O	A	E	R	B	S	U	I	O	A	F
C	S	R	T	D	T	S	A	O	S	S	B	L	N	L
A	Y	A	T	S	R	D	N	C	A	I	E	A	I	E
G	L	T	E	O	O	S	D	E	N	C	R	L	M	G
E	G	W	H	O	N	T	R	L	D	M	A	S	A	E
R	U	B	G	C	A	I	E	L	R	P	A	O	L	I
I	E	E	A	R	I	N	A	I	O	I	G	R	E	S
F	H	S	P	A	P	G	I	N	N	A	V	O	I	G
T	T	T	S	M	A	R	I	A	I	T	A	L	Y	O

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Aldo, Alessandra, Alessandroni, Andrea, Best, Bocelli, Bugsy, Cage, Composer, Dollars, Eastwood, Fire, Fistful, Folles, Franca, Giovanni, Icon, Italy, Leone, Libera, Marco, Maria, Mario, Mina, Music, Once, Paoli, Piano, Rome, Sergio, Siegel, Slalom, Spaghetti, Sting, Tarantino, The Bad, The Good, The Ugly, Time, Titoli, Travia, Upon, Video, Vivo, Western

Yesterday's Answer: Raisins

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Boycott: NBA playoff games called off

FLORIDA (AP)—Making their strongest statement yet in the fight against racial injustice, players from six NBA teams decided not to play postseason games on Wednesday in a boycott that quickly reverberated across other professional leagues.

Also called off: Some games in Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer and the three WNBA contests, as players across four leagues decided the best way to use their platform and demand change was to literally step off the playing surface.

Players made the extraordinary decisions to protest the shooting by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin on Sunday of Jacob Blake, a Black man, apparently in the back while three of his children looked on.

Kenosha is about 40 miles south of Milwaukee. That city's NBA team, the Bucks, started the boycotts Wednesday by refusing to emerge from their locker room to play a playoff game against the Orlando Magic.

"There has been no action, so our focus today cannot be on basketball," said Bucks guard Sterling Brown, who joined teammate George Hill in reading a statement on the team's behalf. Brown has a federal lawsuit pending against the city of Milwaukee alleging he was targeted because he was Black and that his civil rights were violated in January 2018 when officers used a stun gun on him after a parking violation.

Officials stand beside an empty court at the scheduled start of an NBA first round playoff game between the Milwaukee Bucks and the Orlando Magic, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The Milwaukee Bucks didn't take the floor in protest against racial injustice and the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin. AP

Other games that were not played: NBA playoff games between Oklahoma City and Houston, and the Los Angeles Lakers and Portland along with three WNBA games, three MLB games and five MLS matches. Two members of the St. Louis Cardinals sat out their team's game with the Kansas City Royals as well.

The NBA's board of governors have called a meeting on Thursday to discuss the new developments, said a person with knowledge of the situation. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the meeting plan was not revealed publicly.

"The baseless shootings of Jacob Blake and other black men and women by law enforcement underscores the need for action," the NBA Coaches Association said in a statement. "Not after the playoffs, not in the future, but now."

The statement by the Bucks also called for state lawmakers to reconvene and take immediate action "to address issues of police accountability, brutality, and criminal justice reform."

"I couldn't agree more. Thank you, Bucks," Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers tweeted.

The NBA did not say when Wednesday's games would be played or if Thursday's schedule of three more games involving six other teams would be affected. NBA players and coaches met for nearly three hours Wednesday night to determine next steps, including whether the season should continue. They did not come to a consensus, a person with knowledge of the meeting told AP.

"We fully support our players and the decision they made," Bucks owners Marc Lasry, Wes Edens and Jamie Dinan said in a joint statement after Milwaukee players decided to not take the floor. "Although we did not know beforehand, we would have wholeheartedly agreed with them. The only way to bring about change is to shine a light on the racial injustices that are happening in front of us."

Added Jeanie Buss, the Governor of the Lakers, in a tweet: "I stand behind our players, today and always. After more than 400 years of cruelty, racism and injustice, we all need to work together to say enough is enough."

Several NBA players, including the Lakers' LeBron James, tweeted out messages demanding change. Some teams did the same.

"We weren't given advanced notice about the decision but we are happy to stand in solidarity with Milwaukee, Jacob, and the entire NBA community," Orlando guard Michael Carter-Williams said. "Change is coming."

Magic players and referees were on the court as if the game was happening, unaware that Milwaukee did not intend to take the floor. The National Basketball Referees Association said it "stands in solidarity" with the players.

"Players have, once again, made it clear—they will not be silent on this issue," National Basketball Players Association Executive Director Michele Roberts said. The NBPA is expected to be part of Thursday's meeting with the board of governors.

Demanding societal change and ending racial injustice has been a major part of the NBA's restart at Walt Disney World. The phrase "Black Lives Matter" is painted on the arena courts, players are wearing messages urging change on their jerseys and coaches are donning pins demanding racial justice as well.

Many players wrestled for weeks about whether it was even right to play, fearing that a return to games would take attention off the deaths of, among others, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in recent months.

Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was fatally shot when police officers burst into her Louisville, Kentucky apartment using a no-knock warrant during a narcotics investigation on March 13. The warrant was in connection with a suspect who did not live there and no drugs were found. Then on May 25, Floyd died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into the Black man's neck for nearly eight minutes—all captured on a cell phone video.

Hill said after Blake's shooting that he felt players shouldn't have come to Disney.

"We're the ones getting killed," Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers, who is Black, said in an emotional speech Tuesday night. "We're the ones that we're denied to live in certain communities. We've been hung. We've been shot. And all you do is keep hearing about fear. It's amazing why we keep loving this country and this country does not love us back. And it's just, it's really so sad."

Players from Boston and Toronto met Tuesday to discuss boycotting Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series, which had been scheduled for Thursday. NBPA officers were part of those meetings, and Miami forward Andre Iguodala—one of those officers—said around 2:15 p.m. that he did not believe a boycott plan had been finalized.

Things apparently moved quickly: Less than two hours later, the Bucks wouldn't take the floor.

"When you talk about boycotting a game, everyone's antenna goes up," Iguodala said. "It's sad you have to make threats like that—I wouldn't say threats—but you have to be willing to sacrifice corporate money for people to realize there's a big problem out there."

Professional sports has seen both strikes and lockouts in the past, almost always over salary disputes. But this wouldn't seem to classify as a strike, even though it was initiated by players, since their dispute is not with the NBA. Boycott, meanwhile, is defined as the act of refusing to engage in an action, usually to express disapproval with some condition.

Woods faces a new, stern test to get to FedEx Cup finale

CHICAGO (AP—Tiger Woods at Olympia Fields brought concerns about the state of his game.

That was the case 17 years ago going into the U.S. Open. Never mind that Woods was the defending champion. He had gone all of four tournaments without winning. At that stage in his career, it was enough to raise questions about a slump.

Not much has changed this week at the BMW Championship, with a slight change in the narrative. It's not about whether he can win a major. It's whether he can avoid another early end to his PGA Tour season.

Woods has gone four tournaments outside the Top 35—three of those since golf returned from the COVID-19 pandemic in June—and he likely needs to finish among the top four against a 69-man field to reach the Tour Championship. The top 30 advance to East Lake to compete for a $15 million prize.

"I have to play well. I have to earn my way to East Lake," said Woods, who is No. 57 in the FedEx Cup. "I haven't done so yet and need a big week in order to advance. If I don't, then I go home. This is a big week for me. I'm looking forward to getting out there and playing and competing."

He'll be doing that on a course that is only familiar in its look—tree-lined, a few elevated greens, fairways framed by rough that can cover the top of his shoes and quick, contoured greens.

But then, it's not familiar to many at the second of three FedEx Cup postseason events. Woods, Charles Howell III, Adam Scott and Paul Casey are the only players who competed in that 2003 U.S. Open (Woods tied for 20th). Bryson DeChambeau won the 2015 U.S. Amateur at Olympia Fields, which featured five other players in the BMW Championship field, including PGA champion Collin Morikawa.

For Woods, the math is simple. He needs a top finish or he has two weeks off ahead of the U.S. Open at Winged Foot, which wouldn't be the worst dilemma he has faced.

If it took time for Woods to remember the holes, the routing might confuse him. The course was reconfigured for the U.S. Open.

3 MLB games postponed, players decide after shooting

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Three Major League Baseball games were postponed Wednesday as players across the sports landscape drove the decisions in the wake of the weekend shooting by police of Jacob Blake, a Black man, in Wisconsin.

Games between the Cincinnati Reds and Brewers in Milwaukee, Seattle Mariners and Padres in San Diego and the Los Angeles Dodgers and Giants in San Francisco were called off hours before they were set to begin.

"There are serious issues in this country," Seattle's Dee Gordon tweeted. "For me, and for many of my teammates, the injustices, violence, death and systemic racism is deeply personal. This is impacting not only my community, but very directly my family and friends. Our team voted unanimously not to play tonight."

Other MLB games had finished, were in progress or just about to start as the announcements were made. Some players, such as outfielders Jason Heyward of the Cubs and Matt Kemp of the Rockies, sat out while their teams played.

All three postponed games will be made up as doubleheaders Thursday. There was the possibility, too, that other games around the majors could affected—two days before MLB was set to celebrate Jackie Robinson Day.

The baseball postponements came after the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks didn't come out on the floor for Game 5 of their first-round playoff series with the Orlando Magic on Wednesday afternoon at Lake Buena Vista, Florida. NBA officials later announced that all three of the day's scheduled playoff games had been postponed.

"Given the pain in the communities of Wisconsin and beyond following the shooting of Jacob Blake, we respect the decisions of a number of players not to play tonight. Major League Baseball remains united for change in our society and we will be allies in the fight to end racism and injustice," MLB said in a statement.

Said players' union head Tony Clark: "At this critical time, players have been deeply affected by the recent events in Wisconsin and by similar events in other parts of the country. We are proud of the stand that our players have taken, and we remain committed to supporting their efforts to effect change in MLB communities and beyond."

Blake was shot multiple times by police in Kenosha, about 40 miles south of Milwaukee. The Blake family's attorney said Blake was paralyzed and that it would "take a miracle" for him to walk again.

AP

The scoreboard at Oracle Park reads Black Lives Matter at game time after a scheduled baseball game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Francisco Giants was postponed on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2020, in San Francisco.

Rays 4, Orioles 3

Michael Perez hit a go-ahead solo homer in the eighth inning and the AL East-leading Tampa Bay Rays beat the Baltimore Orioles.

Perez homered to center off Mychal Givens (0-1). It was his first long ball since Aug. 10, 2018.

Blue Jays 9, Red Sox 1

Rowdy Tellez drove in four runs with two homers and a double, and Toronto beat Boston.

Vladimir Guererro Jr. hit a pair of doubles, including a three-run bouncer down the left field line that keyed a four-run seventh inning for Toronto (15-14). Randal Grichuk also homered and drove in two runs.

Mets 5, Marlins 4

Wilson Ramos singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning after hobbled Mets closer Edwin Diaz and the bullpen blew another lead provided by Jacob deGrom, and New York beat Miami.

DeGrom set New York up nicely by matching a career high with 14 strikeouts and handing off a 4-1 lead to begin the eighth inning, but Miami promptly loaded the bases with one out against Justin Wilson.

Indians 6, Twins 3

Mike Clevinger pitched effectively in his first start since breaking COVID-19 protocols and Tyler Naquin doubled home the go-ahead run in a three-run eighth inning as Cleveland beat Minnesota to tighten the AL Central.

Clevinger gave up a homer to Max Kepler on his third pitch, but settled in and held the Twins to two runs over six innings in his first start since Aug. 5.

Tigers 7, Cubs 6

Niko Goodrum hit a two-run double to cap Detroit's five-run sixth inning, and the Tigers held on to beat the Cubs.

The Cubs trailed 7-3 entering the ninth, but Nico Hoerner hit an RBI single and Albert Almora added a run-scoring double. An infield single by Ian Happ put the tying run on first with nobody out, then Anthony Rizzo hit a sacrifice fly that center fielder Victor Reyes caught against the wall, some 420 feet from the plate. Detroit pitcher Buck Farmer snagged Kyle Schwarber's line drive to end it.

Phillies 3, Nationals 2

Aaron Nola threw seven strong innings, and Philadelphia took advantage of Washington's sloppy outfield defense to rally for a victory.

Bryce Harper delivered the go-ahead RBI single in the seventh to help the Phillies win their third in a row. The defending World Series champion Nationals have dropped three consecutive games to drop to a season-high six games under .500.

Braves 5, Yankees 1, Game 1
Braves 2, Yankees 1, Game 2

Freddie Freeman hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning off Chad Green and Atlanta, led by another strong start from Max Fried, rallied to beat the Yankees to sweep a doubleheader.

In the opener, Ian Anderson dazzled in his big league debut, holding the Yankees hitless into the sixth inning and ending Gerrit Cole's 20-game winning streak.

Cardinals 6, Royals 5

Kolten Wong drew a bases-loaded walk to cap off a four-run rally in the ninth inning that lifted St. Louis over Kansas City.

Tyler O'Neill tied the game at 5 with a two-out, two-run single with the bases loaded off the glove of third baseman Maikel Franco.

White Sox 10, Pirates 3

Jose Abreu homered, Dallas Keuchel pitched six dominant innings, and surging Chicago pounded Pittsburgh as the White Sox won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Abreu's 12th home run was Chicago's fourth of the game and broke it open. Eloy Jimenez slugged a three-run homer, Danny Mendick lined a two-run drive and Edwin Encarnacion added a solo shot for Chicago.

Athletics 3, Rangers 1

Mike Fiers extended his mastery over the Rangers, allowing onlly an unearned run over six innings as the Athletics beat Texas.

Fiers (4-1) struck out seven and scattered three hits in his six innings. He is 6-0 with a 3.18 ERA in his last nine starts against Texas.

Rockies 8, Diamondbacks 7

Charlie Blackmon hit a grand slam to help Colorado build a big lead and the Rockies held on during a tense ninth inning to beat Arizona.

Blackmon's second career slam made it 8-1 in the top of the eighth. After the Diamondbacks scored twice in the bottom half of the inning, they rallied for four runs in the ninth.

Osaka withdraws in protest; W&S put on hold

NEW YORK (AP)—Fourth-seeded Naomi Osaka reached the semifinals of the Western & Southern Open on Wednesday and withdrew a few hours later in a call for racial justice, drawing quick support from other players. Soon after, the whole tournament was put on hold for a day.

"As a sport, tennis is collectively taking a stance against racial inequality and social injustice that once again has been thrust to the forefront in the United States. The USTA, ATP Tour, and WTA have decided to recognize this moment in time by pausing tournament play at the Western & Southern Open on Thursday, Aug. 27," the three oganizations said in a statement.

Osaka, the Japanese star and last Top 10 seed in the women's bracket, joined professional athletes in basketball, baseball and soccer in demanding change after Jacob Blake was shot by police.

Osaka tweeted that as a Black woman, she feels compelled to pull out of the tournament to put a focus on police shooting Black people.

"I don't expect anything drastic to happen with me not playing, but if I can get a conversation started in a majority white sport I consider that a step in the right direction," Osaka tweeted. "Watching the continued genocide of Black people at the hand of the police is honestly making me sick to my stomach.

"I'm exhausted of having a new hashtag pop up every few days and I'm extremely tired of having this same conversation over and over again. When will it ever be enough?"

Her move quickly got support from others players on the tour.

Sloane Stephens retweeted the message and added: "Say it louder! Proud of you" and in a separate tweet added, #Proud of all the sports teams and athletes taking a stand tonight #BLM"

After reaching the semifinals late Wednesday, Milos Raonic said the ATP and WTA should consider a joint action that goes beyond a small group of players.

"I think real disruption, that's what makes change, and I think a lot of real disruption is caused by affecting people in a monetary way and can force some kind of change," he said. "I'm hoping at least we on the men's tour as well as the women's, we band together and we show support."

Chiefs' defense gets tough practice test

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Andy Reid always has been an offensive-minded coach, preferring to draw up plays on the beach near his California home, or on a white board in training camp, or even on a napkin during dinner, over trying to figure out how to stop someone.

Reid leaves most of that to Kansas City Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo.

And does Spags ever have his job cut out for him.

During this most atypical of training camps, when a slow ramp-up replaced any preseason games, the Chiefs have found themselves going first-team offense against first-team defense quite a bit.

The result? Spagnuolo and Co. are forced to get ready for the opener Sept. 10 against Houston while facing one of the most dynamic offenses in the NFL, which in turn is trying to shred the Chiefs defense as Patrick Mahomes and the rest of them are fine-tuning themselves.

"Day-in and day-out we're competing with one of the best offenses in the league," Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones said. "When we're able to go out there and compete with those guys, the sky's the limit. If we can limit that offense—they can score at any point in the game. Competing with those guys is elevating our defense."

It's a defense that, especially down the stretch, was quietly among the best in the league last season.

It took a while for everything to come together under Spagnuolo, who had taken over after defensive coordinator Bob Sutton was fired for fielding one of the worst defenses in the NFL. He switched from the 3-4 base defense that the Chiefs had used since Reid's arrival and implemented a 4-3 defense that required some serious changes.

There were personnel changes. There were changes in position. But more than anything else, there was a dramatic change in mentality, thanks in part to safety Tyrann Mathieu and defensive end Frank Clark bringing a fresh new edge.

The Chiefs wound up finishing seventh in the league in scoring defense, the only metric that really matters, and were a mere two field goals away from the top five. They held the Broncos and Bears without a touchdown down the stretch, when the Chiefs ripped off six straight wins to secure the No. 2 seed in the playoffs.

And when they gave up early points against the Texans and Titans in the playoffs, they locked down quickly enough to allow their offense to overcome the deficit.

Ditto in the Super Bowl, when the Chiefs rallied for a 31-20 victory over the 49ers for their first title in 50 years.

"I have this feeling we picked up right where we left off after the Super Bowl, and we're hitting on all cylinders and playing good defense," Chiefs safety Dan Sorensen said. "I think the time we've had, this ramp-up period plus training camp, we are really dialed in on defense. The coaches know the personnel. We know the scheme."

AP
Kansas City Chiefs safety Daniel Sorensen participates in a drill during an NFL football training camp practice Monday, Aug. 24, 2020, in Kansas City, Mo.

'Sick and tired' of racial injustice

Bradley McDougald is angry. He's downright frustrated and sad.

The New York Jets safety is also extremely worried.

Within the confines of the team's facility, McDougald is a respected pro football player whose main concern is stopping the offense. When he heads home and turns onto the main road just a few hundred yards away, he goes on the defense. His guard goes up just as it has most of his life.

"Guys are sick and tired of being sick and tired," McDougald said Wednesday during a video conference call.

He has seen the video of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and he doesn't want to end up like him. Or, George Floyd. Or, Breonna Taylor. Or, the countless other Black men and women who have been victims of police brutality or social injustice.

"Me personally, I'm hurt by the whole situation," McDougald said. "I'm an African-American man and that easily could've been me. As soon as I walk out of 1 Jets Drive, I'm just another black man—and I don't know how the cops are going to see me."

ONLINE

From Page 24

in international tournaments around the world—Asia and the Pacific, New Zealand, Africa, Australia, Europe, and North and South America. Despite the high travel requirements that boosted her junior tennis career, which was highlighted by a lot of historic firsts for NMI tennis, Lee did not skip school.

"Online school helped me pull through," said Lee, who graduated in high school early this year.

When asked if she had regrets not attending a regular school or the opportunities/milestones she missed in a normal high school setting, Lee said yes, but was quick in pointing out that she needed to make sacrifices to attain her goals—which are to play high-level tennis and get into college.

"Of course, there are disadvantages in attending online classes. But they also offer advantages, like flexibility in schedule, which is very helpful for student-athletes. I also missed a lot of events that regular students would like to experience, but I've got to do what I have to do and I am happy I did," said Lee, who won the gold medal in the mixed doubles event (with Colin Sinclair) in last year's Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

The 19-year-old is now in Atlanta after receiving a full athletic scholarship from NCAA Division I school Georgia Tech.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this file photo, Carol Lee, left, joins her fellow CNMI players for a group photo during a break in their games in the 2014 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

NMI

From Page 24

and I greatly appreciate and recognize all the efforts of our coaches, especially for giving us the opportunity to complete the soccer coaching course," the TanHoldings Football Club member said.

He added that although they know a lot about soccer since they've been playing for years, he finds it more challenging imparting his knowledge and skills in the sport to younger players. Despite the difficulty, he is determined to stay involved in coaching to help in the grassroots program.

"The challenging part is I will need to muster the courage to use the coaching skills to the youth that expect a lot from us. Now is that easy? The answer is definitely not! But, I chose to be in this field and we were taught and trained to do justice with our roles. Each of us contributes to the success of CNMI soccer. Big or small, we can help bring aspiring youth to the program and make them better and well-trained soccer players," Goto said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Twelve individuals show their certificates and are joined in the photo by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association coaches at the conclusion of the NMIFA D License Coaching Course last Aug. 22 at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

Boycott: NBA playoff games called off

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

3 MLB games postponed, players decide after shooting

PAGE 22

NMI players try hand at coaching

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMIFA assistant coach Jersh Angeles, kneeling, demonstrates a drill to Joshua Abragan, right, and Jireh Yobech.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and CNMI Men's National Team head coach Michiteru Mita explains a drill to participants in the NMIFA D License Coaching Course last Aug. 16 at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ten out of the 12 individuals who completed the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association D License Coaching Course are members of the CNMI national training teams.

Joshua Abragan, Jireh Yobech, Reginal Pascual, Akira Kadokura, Chevy Alipio, Nathanette Blas, Winneb Echavez, Katrina Costales, Julianne Hall, and Kohtaro Goto attended the theoretical and practical sessions of the coaching course held last Aug. 15 and 16 and passed the written tests on Aug. 22 to earn certification from NMI. Also completing the course were MP United's Gene Weaver and Martin Jambor.

NMIFA technical director and CNMI Men's National Team head coach Michiteru Mita conducted the course with the help of assistant coaches Jershwin Angeles and Angie Ito. According to Mita, the course aims to train coaches to organize and conduct basic coaching practice for youth players, particularly those in the U12 age groups.

"All 12 were actively involved and we had a lot of good discussion during the practical and theoretical sessions. The course is a very good training, especially most of national team players haven't had coaching experience yet, while Gene and Martin have more practical experience," Mita said.

"They shared ideas and issues in our grassroots soccer. This is good cross learning environment. Also, it is good that our national team players like current men's team captain Jireh Yobech and Katrina Costales, and other national team players are involved in coaching. They have good soccer skills and they can show them when they are coaching younger kids. They have an advantage as coaches, too," the NMIFA technical director said.

Mita hopes that more people will capitalize on the availability of NMIFA's coaching courses as they are very instrumental in the continued growth of the sports in the CNMI.

"We need more coaches at the U12 level who can coach and help build the fundamental skills of players. I hope they will continue coaching as they will greatly contribute to our development," Mita said.

Meanwhile, Goto, who plays for the CNMI U15 National Team, is thankful for the opportunity to take the course and learn from experts.

"I feel fortunate to be part of the CNMI national team

See NMI on Page 23

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this 2014 file photo, Carol Lee competes in a local tournament before heading to Fiji to work out at the International Tennis Federation Training Center.

Online classes help Carol balance school and sports

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to resort to online classes, Pacific Games gold medalist Carol Lee had been through virtual education and credits the setup for her success as a student-athlete.

Lee graced Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's second podcast, which was hosted by long-time CNMI national coach Jeff Race and aired yesterday, and she discussed her journey in the sport, including her stay in the International Tennis Federation Training Center in Fiji for years.

"I was 14 when I was invited at the training center. I had early morning fitness training, then online school, less than an hour break, back to online school, and then afternoon training. In the evening, it's school work and then personal/team duties likes doing the laundry, mopping the floor. It was a tough schedule and in my first year, I asked myself 'why I am doing this?' But, I am glad I chose to stay because it's all worth it," said Lee.

While at the ITF facility, Lee managed to compete

See ONLINE on Page 23